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‘STUDYING DEVELOPMENTS’

India on US SC order on tariffs

Trump has pledged to impose a new global 10% tariff under a law that is restricted to 150 days and has never been used to apply tariffs before.

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry on Saturday said it has 'noted' the US Supreme Court judgment on tariffs and is studying the Trump administration’s next steps for their implications, signalling that New Delhi is assessing both the court order and Washington’s policy response before taking a public position.

“We have noted the US Supreme Court judgement on tariffs yesterday. President Trump has also addressed a press conference in that regard. Some steps have been announced by the US Administration. We are studying all these developments for their implications,” the ministry said in an official press statement.

Earlier on Saturday, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said, "India will review the US Supreme Court’s 6-3 decision striking down President Donald Trump’s reciprocal tariffs before issuing an official response."

The ruling, which declared Trump’s use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) unconstitutional for imposing broad tariffs, has injected fresh uncertainty into global trade, but Washington and New Delhi appear publicly cautious for now.

Speaking in the first response from the Indian government, Joshi said the Centre would examine the US Supreme Court’s order and that either the commerce ministry or the ministry of external affairs would formally react after reviewing the judgment.

Trump hikes global tariff from 10% to 15%

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump announced on Saturday that he is raising the tariffs on goods entering United States from 10% to 15%.

How will India be affected?

India now faces a reduced tariff rate of 10%, down from 18%, after Trump imposed a new global levy on items imported into America following a Supreme Court verdict against his sweeping tariffs, delivering a stinging rebuke of his signature economic policy. After signing the new tariff order, Trump said on social media that it was "effective almost immediately." The new duty is slated to take effect on February 24 for 150 days, with exemptions remaining for sectors under separate probes, including pharma, and for goods entering the US under the US-Mexico-Canada agreement, according to a White House factsheet.

After SC ruling on tariffs, firms line up for refunds

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court on Friday struck down President Donald Trump's biggest and boldest tariffs. But the justices left a $133 billion question unanswered: What's going to happen to the money the government has already collected in import taxes now declared unlawful? Companies have been lining up for refunds. But the way forward could prove chaotic. When the smoke clears, trade lawyers say, importers are likely to get money back — eventually. "It's going to be a bumpy ride for a while," said trade lawyer Joyce Adetutu, a partner at the Vinson & Elkins law firm. The refund process is likely to be hashed out by a mix of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, the specialized Court of International Trade in New York and other lower courts, according to a note to clients by lawyers at the legal firm Clark Hill.

India women beat Australia, clinch historic T20I series win

ADELAIDE

Women in Blue secure first T20I series win after 10 years; Mandhana's 82 and Patil's riveting three-fer key in big victory

An entertaining century partnership between Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues powered India to a 17-run win over Australia in the third and final Women’s T20I here on Saturday, sealing their first bilateral T20I series triumph against the formidable rivals in a decade.

Opting to bat, Mandhana smashed 82 off 55 balls (8x4, 3x6), while Jemimah Rodrigues struck 59 off 46 deliveries as the two senior batters stitched a commanding 121-run stand to propel India to 176 for six.

In reply, Ashleigh Gardner (57) scored a fifty before Australia were restricted to 159-9 in their 20 overs.

For India, Shree Charani (3/32), Shreyanka Patil (3/22) and Arundhati Reddy (2/35) were among wickets.

BRIEF SCORE

India: 176 for 6 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 82, Jemimah Rodrigues 59; Annabel Sutherland 2/34)

Australia: 159 for 9 in 20 overs (Ashleigh Gardner 57; Shree Charani 3/32, Shreyanka Patil 3/22, Arundhati Reddy 2/35).

Religious sites near Red Fort, Chandni Chowk in national capital on target list, as per sources

Terror alert: New Delhi under security blanket

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's Lashkar-e-Taiba has been planning a blast near Delhi's Red Fort, and other prominent religious places across the country, including a temple in Chandni Chowk, sources said, citing security agencies.

Sources suggest that the terror outfit may be plotting an improvised explosive device (IED) attack.

The outfit is allegedly seeking to avenge the February 6 suicide blast at a mosque in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, in which 31 people died, and over 160 were injured, sources said.

The Islamic State group, however, had claimed responsibility for the mosque attack. "Upon reaching the inner gate of the mosque, the martyrdom-seeker detonated his explosive vest amidst the Shi'a congregation, inflicting a large number of deaths and injuries," IS said in a statement.

This comes three months after a deadly car explosion near the historic Red Fort in Delhi on November 10, 2025, in which 13 people were killed, and nearly two dozen were injured. The blast, caused by a car loaded with explosives near the Red Fort Metro Station, triggered fires in multiple nearby vehicles. Umar Mohammad, alias Umar Un Nabi, a doctor at the Al-Falah University in Faridabad, was driving the car that exploded, according to DNA test results.

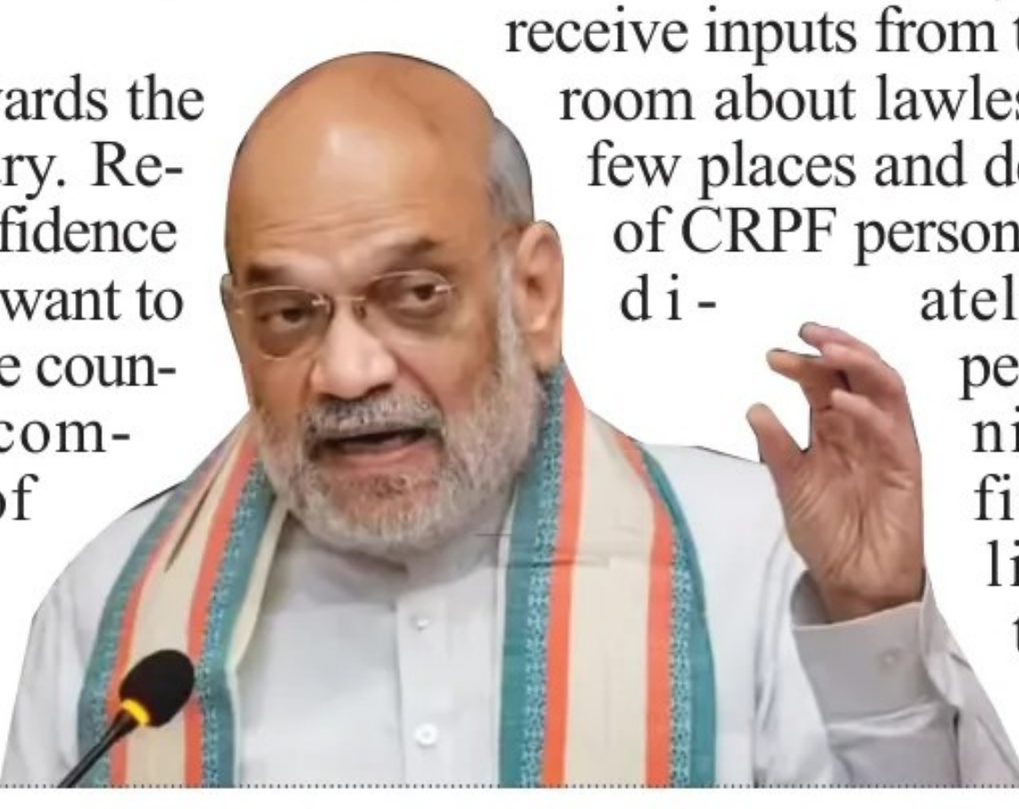
Will wipe out red terror by March 31: HM Shah

GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday reiterated that Left-wing extremism would be eliminated by March 31st this year.

Speaking at the 87th Raising Day parade of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Guwahati, Shah commended the Force for the success it achieved so far in performing the historic and difficult task of eliminating the Maoist menace in three years.

“We are towards the end of February. Reposing my confidence in the CRPF, I want to reiterate that the country will be completely free of the Maoist issue by March 31, 2026,” he said. “When the country would be finally rid of red terror, I would say that CRPF and its CoBRA battalions had a major role, without any hesitation,” he added.



The Home Minister cited several instances when CRPF jawans foiled terror attacks and fought with Chinese and Pakistani soldiers, bravely.

He highlighted that the deployment of the CRPF certainly meant the defeat of the enemies of the country. “When I receive inputs from the control room about lawlessness at a few places and deployment of CRPF personnel immediately, I sleep peacefully at night as I firmly believe that the jawans will not fail and return with results,” Shah said.

He noted that CRPF, along with the Border Security Force and Jammu & Kashmir Police, played a major role in maintaining law and order after the abrogation of Article 370.

He said the incidents of stone pelting in J&K had ceased, resulting in the arrival of industries and development.

“The CRPF is playing a major role in maintaining peace in the Northeast. We had to deploy the CRPF finally in Manipur to curb the ethnic violence,” he added.

‘INFILTRATOR-FREE ELECTORAL ROLLS, COUNTRY IN 5 YEARS’

Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted on Saturday that illegal immigrants would be removed not only from the electoral rolls but also from the country in the next five years. While addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for a new campus of the Assam Police 10th Battalion, Shah said if India can be free of Naxals, it can also be free of infiltrators. He also went on to say that that 10th Battalion’s new campus woulbe be built on land freed from encroachments by intruder. Attacking Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Shah said the Congress leader had once said that infiltrators would be removed, but the “Congress can’t do so as illegal immigrants are its votebank”

4 killed as tractor trolley overturns in Jamkhandi

BAGALKOT

Four people, including a two-year-old child, were killed after a tractor trolley carrying sugarcane harvesting workers overturned near Katti Keri in Jamkhandi taluk of Bagalkot early Saturday morning.

The accident occurred around 2 am when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle, which went off the road and fell into a roadside ditch, causing the trolley to overturn. The deceased were identified as Manish Pandey (23), Halaki Pandey (2), Lakshmi Chiramadi (27), and Rekha Bhuke. All were residents of Gupawadi in Bhosa taluk of Yavatmal district in Maharashtra. Over 10 others, who sustained injuries, were rushed to a nearby hospital.

The Jamkhandi police have registered a case and launched and further inquiry is under way.

Eliminating corruption govt's top agenda: CM

BENGALURU

Asserting that curbing corruption in appointments and transfers is his government's clear objective, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said all recruitments and transfers in the Health Department are being carried out strictly through counselling to ensure transparency.

Speaking at a 'Abhaya Hasta' programme organised by the Department of Health and Family Welfare to distribute appointment letters to newly-recruited candidates, he said, "All these recruitments are being done through counselling. The government's objective is to eliminate corruption."

Noting that even transfers were being streamlined, he said, "Through counselling, we have carried out around 5,700 transfers, including doctors - that is, we have transferred 5,700 doctors through counselling. Likewise, these new appointments have also been made through counselling so that corruption does not take place in transfers and recruitments."

According to Siddaramaiah, everything is being done through counselling, and hence people should not approach anyone seeking transfers. "Do not go to anyone. Agents have started operating - transfer agents. They demand money and also try to get money paid to officials. No one should engage in such practices hereafter," the CM added.

About 1,000 candidates received appointment letters and joined the department.

MASSIVE CLEAN UP

Post SIR, voter base shrinks in 9 states, UTs; Guj sees highest drop

NEW DELHI

The final electoral rolls in nine out of the 12 states and union territories (UTs) that underwent Special Intensive Revision (SIR) have decreased by 7.93% (1.70 crore) voters. Gujarat has recorded the highest percentage of net deletions at 13.4%, while Kerala has the lowest at 3.22% among the larger states.

The total count of voters in Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan was recorded at 21,45,62,215 at the commencement of SIR on 27 October 2026; however, it has decreased to 19,75,33,701 currently, reflecting net deletions of 1,70,28,514.

The electoral rolls for Puducherry and Lakshadweep were released on February 14, followed by Gujarat on February 17, while the voter lists for six additional states were made public on Saturday.

Considering Bihar, where the SIR was initially conducted last year prior to the Assembly elections, the total number of net deletions amounts to 2.16 crore, which represents 7.37%. The electoral roll in Bihar decreased from 7.89 crore in June 2024 to 7.43 crore in September 2024.

The rolls of Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and UP – where the SIR started with the other nine states and UTs – will come later. The Tamil Nadu list will come on Monday while part of the West Bengal list will come on February 28 and the remaining after judicial scrutiny. The UP list will come on April 6.

Gujarat witnessed the highest net change of 13.4% or 68.12 lakh in electoral rolls as it shrunk from 5.08 crore to 4.40 crore. Madhya Pradesh came second in number of net deletions at 34.35 lakh though its proportion was comparatively less at 5.96% as voters declined from 5.74 crore to 5.39 crore.

The number of voters in Rajasthan saw a decline of 31.36 lakh (5.74%) from 5.46 crore to 5.15 crore while Chhattisgarh saw a decline of 24.99 lakh – a higher proportion of 11.77% compared to other bigger states – from 2.12 crore to 1.87 crore voters.

Kerala had the lowest proportion of decline in voters at 3.22% or 8.97 lakh – from 2.78 crore to 2.69 crore. Goa had a 10.76% or 1.27 lakh decline in voter rolls from 11.85 lakh to 10.57 lakh.

Among the union territories, Lakshadweep’s voter list shrunk by just 206 or 0.36% – the island now has 57,607 voters as against 57,813 voters earlier. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have the highest proportion of 16.87% or 52,364 net deletions as its voter list declined from 3.10 lakh to 2.58 lakh.

Puducherry has registered a decline of 7.5% or 77,367 voters – from 10.21 lakh to 9.44 lakh.

In Assam, the Election Commission of India (ECI) carried out a Special Revision rather than a Special Inclusion Review (SIR), due to legal challenges arising from an unfinished National Register of Citizens (NRC) process.

As per the final electoral rolls released earlier this month, Assam now has 2.49 crore voters, compared to 2.52 crore voters listed in a draft prepared following the Special Revision.

For the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Assam had 2.45 crore voters.

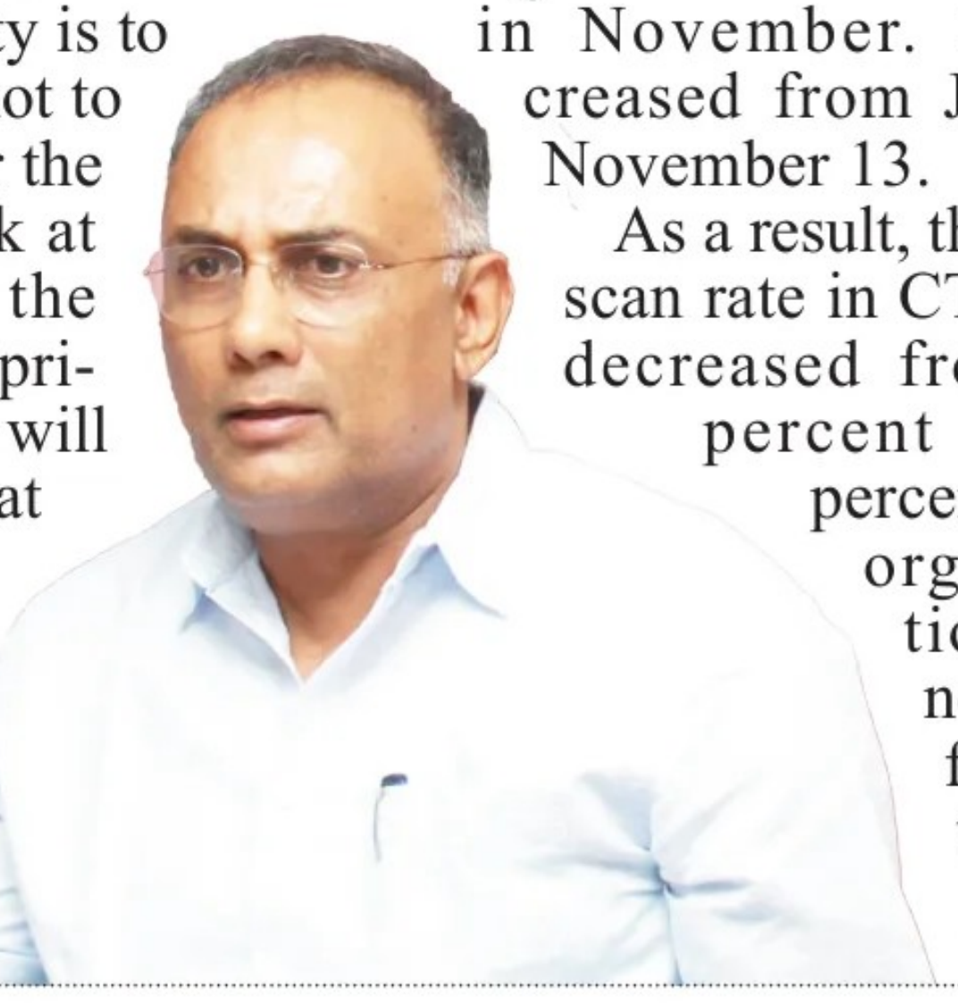
MRI-CT scan issue: 'Alternative arrangements made in most hospitals'

The opposition parties are portraying this in different ways because the company has written a letter saying that it has not paid the money

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

Only 13 hospitals in the state are facing problems with MRI and CT scans. We have immediately made alternative arrangements for most of the hospitals, said Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

Speaking at Vidhana Soudha, he said that the opposition party has spoken a far-fetched story regarding the suspension of MRI and CT scans in government hospitals run by Krishna Diagnostics Company. They are saying things like that the government is short of funds, the department is paralyzed, etc. I do not criticize them for criticizing. Our duty is to work. Our aim is not to cause problems for the people. If you look at their reaction to the letter written by a private company, you will not understand what to say, he said.



Krishna Diagnostics was doing 63 MRI scans every day. We were suspicious because of the high number of scans and checked them. In July, the average was 63. It decreased in November. It decreased from July to November 13.

As a result, the MRI scan rate in CT scans decreased from 76 percent to 64 percent. The organisation has not confirmed the previous outstanding bill. Rs 140 crore. It was happening every year. We have instructed the organization to be fair. It has been decided to do a PPP model from now on. We have saved hundreds of crores for the government. He said that 18 crores are left every month since 2019.

The opposition has not understood the reality: Earlier, there was no system for this. The company just said what it was supposed to do. When a system and rules were introduced for this, the scanning rate decreased significantly. The opposition is speaking on behalf of the company without knowing this. They have not understood that the government has suffered a lot due to this, he explained.

Whatever the company says, our intention is not to cause problems for the people. We will not allow government money to be misused.

The company has asked for Rs 143 crore as arrears from 2019. We have categorically said that we cannot afford to pay that much.

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HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

Fake SBI loan scam: HC refuses to quash FIR

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

The High Court refused to quash a cheating and cybercrime FIR and related proceedings against four persons accused of duping a businessman by allegedly creating a fake State Bank of India website, hacking the actual bank website, and obtaining OTPs.

The case at hand is akin to a crime thriller or a crime potboiler, Justice M Nagaprasanna noted in his order. Vinayak Kabadi, a businessman from Gadag, was the complainant. K Balajee alias Balaji Sha; Silmia alias Silmya Fathima, both from Tamil Nadu, Seba Jeevan Sebaratnam, a resident of Carshalton, Surrey, UK, but currently residing in Bengaluru; along with Vinay Kumar Agarwal, Bengaluru, challenged the FIR and proceedings initiated by Bengaluru police.

The complainant was looking to raise loans to establish a sugar factory. In October 2017, he visited Celestial Tiles showroom at Indiranagar, Bengaluru, owned by Vinay Agarwal. Vinay and Silmia's husband Niyaz assured him they would arrange a loan of Rs 225 crore and asked him to come to Chennai to meet SBI officials at Park Hyatt Hotel. Niyaz and Silmia introduced the businessman to the other accused. They lured him with promise of Rs 225-crore loan and demanded a commission of 7 percent of the loan amount.

The complainant agreed, and documents were transmitted to the accused.

In furtherance of the said transaction, one email was communicated to the complainant, and Rs 49 lakh was credited to his account that was opened in State Bank of India on January 4, 2018. Another email transaction alert came from the website of sbicf.co.in informing that Rs 115 crore was credited, and again Rs 110 crore was shown as credited to the account of the complainant.

The total available balance showed Rs 225,49,00,000. The complainant then paid about Rs 7.2 crore, which was 50n percent of the commission amount. He then checked the account in the State Bank of India physically and on learning that he was duped, he filed a complaint on July 16, 2022.

Challenging the registration of crime and proceedings initiated against them, the accused argued that the issue on hand was purely civil in nature.

QUICK READ

4-year-old boy attacked by Rottweiler

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

A four-year-old boy was brutally attacked by a Rottweiler dog at the 7th cross of the 6th phase of Banashankari. A boy's leg was torn off in an attack by a Rottweiler dog. Muniyallappa of Banashankari kept a Rottweiler dog. He had untied the belt to walk the dog. At that time, the dog jumped on the boy. The boy is being treated at BGS Hospital. The boy's family has filed a complaint against the dog's owner at Kengeri police station.

Man held for sexually harassing girls

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

Anekal police have arrested a 64-year-old man on charges of sexually harassing three minors by promising them chocolate. The incident took place under the jurisdiction of Anekal Police Station. Parents would drop their children off at school at 8:30 am and go to work. Even though school started at 10 am, the elderly, realising that the girls were coming by eight, would sexually harass the children by promising them chocolate. On Friday, an elderly man sexually abused a second-grade girl. The student had informed her parents about this at home. During interrogation, it came to light that three children had been sexually abused. A case under POCSO has been registered at Anekal police station in connection with the incident.

KSEAB may prepare common question papers for 6-9 classes in state syllabus schools

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

The department of school education and literacy is proposing common question papers prepared by Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) for classes 6, 7, 8 and 9 in state syllabus government schools from the current academic year.

Till now, question papers for summative assessment-2 were prepared at the school level. The latest move is to have a standardised question paper for these four classes. However, valuation will be done at the school level, and there will be no detentions based on results.

Instead of focusing only on class 10 and 12, interventions must be made early. We'll attempt interventions from class 6 so that the pressure on the child eases by class 10, said a senior official.

This is a gentle exercise to ensure students are ready for adequate learning interventions. We'll follow Right to Education, there will be no coercion, punitive action or detention, the official further added.

The common question papers will ease conducting of examinations and reduces the burden for teachers to prepare question papers at school level.

Question papers will be despatched to school logins from KSEAB in the morning of the exam days.

The school headmaster has to print out the papers. This practice is followed for class 10 and II PU preparatory exams.

Though the department had planned a similar move for classes 5 and 8 in 2024, private schools, which were brought under the proposal, challenged the move in Supreme Court. The top court stayed the exam. Though this proposal is only for government schools, private schools are free to sign up.

"We hope to introduce it for I PU students next year", the official said.

As per the Unified District Information System of Education 2024, Karnataka has 27,000 schools offering classes 6-9. A school teacher said the department should send in model papers and blueprints so that schools will prepare the ground for final exams. "This will also bring in desired seriousness, he said.

RGUHS plans life-study skills model for MBBS

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) is planning to launch a life and study skills intervention model for MBBS students at medical colleges affiliated with the university.

The programme is in collaboration with NIMHANS, which will roll out the modules and faculty training.

The latest syndicate meeting of RGUHS approved the programme and decided to release Rs 50 lakh as seed money for the implementation of the project. Further, the university wants to tap corporate social responsibility funding for the same. The main objectives of the programme are to improve academic performance and reduce behavioural issues.

The intervention model is being done using mentoring as an approach. The skills taught will include time management, stress management, multitasking, micro-planning for studies, memory and concentration techniques, and knowledge management techniques, said BC Bhagavan, Vice-Chancellor, RGUHS.

The first step is to assess the current academic performance of all medical students across Karnataka.

The second is to identify their mentoring and behavioural needs.

After the Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) curriculum was introduced in 2019-20, we did not get feedback from the student side. We are trying to understand their acceptance of the new system, their stress levels, and learnings, he added. There are 53 medical colleges under RGUHS. NIMHANS will train three faculty per college, 1 from psychiatry, 1 from community medicine, and 1 who will be designated as a nodal person for the mentoring.

Woman extorted over ₹1.1L, humiliated after taking emergency loan from app

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old woman landed in deep trouble after taking an emergency loan from an online lending app. Fraudsters allegedly morphed her photos in obscene ways, shared them with her family and friends and threatened to make them viral on social media despite her clearing the loan amount.

The accused extorted over Rs 1.1 lakh from her and are still demanding more. The woman, a resident of New Thippasandra, told police she needed around Rs 10,000 for an emergency. Instead of asking someone, she decided to take a loan from an online app. She searched online, found a link for Loan Mitra app, downloaded it and entered her banking and personal details on January 27. The app approved only Rs 4,500 and disbursed Rs 2,700 to her bank account after deducting charges, including interest, and give her a deadline of seven days for repayment. She claimed she repaid Rs 4,500 before the due date. However, the app again disbursed the same amount to her account without her consent and began demanding repayment, she told police. When she explained that she did not apply for the loan a second time and said she would repay the credited amount, the miscreants began threatening and harassing her through multiple phone calls, she said. They morphed her photos and threatened to share them with her contacts.

Fearing the embarrassment, she started paying amounts demanded by the fraudsters. By February 12, she paid over Rs 1.1 lakh through digital payment apps to 16 UPI IDs provided by the accused.

MAN SMASHES WIFE'S HEAD WITH STONE SUSPECTING HER FIDELITY

CH NEWS
RAMANAGARA

A 21-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her husband, who smashed her head with a stone suspecting her fidelity, police said on Saturday.

The police said the incident occurred in Kullegowdanapalya, within the jurisdiction of Kaggalipura police station.

The deceased has been identified as 21-year-old Sinchana, while the accused is her husband, Renukaiah.

Authorities added that the couple often quarreled due to Renukaiah's suspicions about his wife's fidelity. On Friday after consuming alcohol, he picked up a quarrel with her. In a fit of rage, he brought a stone lying in front of the house and smashed it on her head, killing her on the spot, police said.

Police said the accused fled the scene immediately after the incident.

On receiving information, Kaggalipura police visited the spot, conducted an inspection and shifted the body for post-mortem.

A case has been registered and efforts are under way to trace and arrest the accused, police added.

School celebrates Sharada Puja Mahotsav

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

The Sharada Puja Mahotsav was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at Anjali Convent and Nightingale High School in Sunkadakatte of Srinivasanagar.

The moments when flowers of knowledge were offered at the feet of Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of education, filled the school premises with divinity, and the melodious sounds of auspicious prayers touched the sky.

The moment the lamp was lit, the light of knowledge shone in everyone's minds. Amidst the sacred beat of Vedic mantras, the rituals were performed in a ritualistic manner.

The secretary of the institution, MS Sara, inaugurated the program by performing the puja. The Principal Dr B Krishnagowda, presided over the program. Chief guest MS Sarala, in her inaugural speech, wished that, by the grace of Goddess Sharadamba, every student of our school may reach higher heights and bring glory to their parents, teachers and the school.

She wished them a happy Sharada Puja and said that they have already achieved 100 percent results in SSLC 13 times and if they achieve 100 percent results for the 14th time, the teachers and students concerned will be felicitated with cash prizes.

Principal Dr B Krishna Gowda in his presidential address wished, Education is the true wealth of man, therefore, by the grace of Goddess Saraswati, may the future of every student be golden and for the students of class X, you, the future stars of our school, standing in the presence of Goddess Sarada, the giver of education, face the important stage of SSLC with confidence, make hard work your weapon and discipline your mantra.

Then, your achievement will shape the direction of your life.

Murder accused gets 7-yr RI for attacking cops

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

A city court held a 33-year-old man guilty of attacking on-duty police officials with a knife and injuring one of them when they tried to stop him, and sentenced him to seven- years' rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 25,000. The convict is Mohammed Saleem, a resident of Govindapura. An attempt to murder case was registered against him on June 24, 2021, when he hit a police constable on his elbow with a knife, seriously injuring him. Police were forced to shot at and injure to stop him. According to police, they were looking for Saleem and others in an old murder case. Based on credible information received on the night of June 24, 2021, police spotted Saleem with his associates moving in a car from Hennur signal towards Nagawara. Quickly, a police team was despatched to detain him. However, on sensing the police trail, Saleem stopped the vehicle near the forest office in HBR Layout and started running.

INCULCATING READING HABIT

'Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi': K'taka's new school push

CH NEWS
BENGALURU

With unchecked use of gadgets leading to a significant decline in reading and learning abilities, state government has announced a statewide campaign, 'Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi', to encourage reading habit among 50-lakh students in govt schools and curb excessive mobile phone usage.

In a recent circular, the department of state education, research and training which will oversee programme implementation — has said the key objective is to systematically cultivate a love of reading among students and shape them into responsible citizens with "active, thoughtful, and high-thinking abilities".

The department has urged schools to create awareness about the safe and moderate use of phones & social media through co-curricular activities .Students should be encouraged to simultaneously take up indoor and outdoor sports, painting, singing, story and poetry writing, and embroidery.Teachers should take steps to encourage use of library and good books. Children should be introduced to use of maps, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and other reference books available in school. Activities such as introducing the book read, storytelling competitions and review writing should be organised.

In collaboration with the health department, schools must educate students on likely mental health problems and effects on academic performance. The women and child welfare department must create awareness among mothers and the community through anganwadi workers. The department can invite gram panchayat members, who can encourage children to visit the library more often. Police officials from cybercrime can raise awareness about issues like cyberbullying.

QUICK READ

Tractor-Trolley Accident Kills Four Instantly

Bagalkot
Early Saturday morning, a tractor-trolley carrying sugarcane workers overturned near Katte Lake in Jamkhandi taluk, Bagalkot district, killing four people on the spot, including a two-year-old child. The victims—Manish Pandey (23), Halaki Pandey (2), Lakshmi Chiramadi (27), and Rekha Bhuke—were part of a migrant labour group from Gupawadi village, Haryana. Police rushed to the scene and launched an investigation. Authorities are probing the cause of the accident, which occurred around 2 a.m. during the sugarcane harvest season.

BJP Leader Condemns AI Summit Disruption

Bidar
Gurunath Jayanti, BJP Gulbarga In-charge, condemned the disruption at the AI Summit held at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. He said the event, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aimed to promote Artificial Intelligence and create jobs for India's youth. Jayanti called the protest by Youth Congress workers unfortunate, alleging it was politically motivated and influenced by Rahul Gandhi. He added that such acts harm India's image at a time when the country is emerging as a global technology leader.

BJP Yuva Morcha Protests Congress Office Vijayapura

Vijayapura
Tension erupted briefly in Vijayapura as BJP Yuva Morcha members protested outside the Congress office at Court Circle. The demonstration condemned alleged misconduct by Congress youth workers during the Bharat AI Impact Summit–2026 in Delhi. Following a nationwide call by BJP Yuva Morcha chief Tejasvi Surya, protesters raised slogans, but police detained several of them to prevent escalation. No violence occurred. Protesters said the AI Summit incident harmed India's international image, while police ensured law and order. Political activity in the city remains heightened.

JOSHI ON US TARIFF RULING, AI PROTEST, BAGALKOT VIOLENCE

Joshi condemned Bagalkot violence, questioned Snehamahi Krishna's arrest, urged strict action, peace, and protection for Shivaji followers

KALABURAGI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday addressed a range of national and international issues while speaking to reporters in Kalaburagi.

Responding to media reports about a US Supreme Court ruling Joshi said he had come to know about this development through media reports. "The Government of India will first study the matter. Any official reaction, if required, will be given by the Commerce Ministry or the Ministry of External Affairs, not by me," he clarified.

Commenting on the Youth Congress protest during the recent AI Summit, Joshi termed the incident "most shameful." He said the summit was attended by over 20 heads of state, 45 ministers, and delegates from more than 100 countries, including global technology leaders such as Google and Microsoft. "At a time when India ranks third globally in innovation, creating disruptions at an international platform harms the country's image. It is unforgivable. I demand that AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge apologise to the nation," he said.

On the arrest of Snehamahi Krishna, Joshi alleged that he was arrested immediately based on a single officer's complaint, even when he was willing to present details before the court. He claimed the action raised questions and suggested that certain facts might be withheld.

Regarding the recent violence in Bagalkot, the Union Minister condemned the stone-pelting on participants of a procession and on a portrait of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible and urged police to provide adequate protection to followers of Shivaji Maharaj in the area. Joshi appealed to people to maintain peace and communal harmony and said strict action must be taken against those disturbing law and order.

"Need for Value-Based Educational Institutions," says MLA Prabhu Chavan

Jnaseva School Begins Silver Jubilee Celebration Programmes

BIDAR

Jnaseva Shishu Mandir, along with its primary and high school wings, officially launched its 20th anniversary celebrations on Saturday at the school auditorium in Pratapnagar. The event was inaugurated by MLA Prabhu Chavan, who praised the school for providing value-based education and emphasized the importance of instilling good moral values alongside academics. He urged parents to focus on nurturing strong foundations in children.

MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale released the silver jubilee brochure and commended the school for organizing a series of meaningful programmes. He also assured full support for the institution's initiatives. Revansiddappa Jalade, Secretary of Jnaseva Pratishthan, stated that to mark 20 years, the school has planned 20 educational and social activities to be conducted until January 2027. These include teachers' training sessions, conventions for college students, awareness programmes for girls, newlywed couples' meets, and an open library initiative.

Several dignitaries attended the inauguration, including Dr. Abdul Khadeer, Sharanappa Sikenpur, Dr. Balbir Singh, S.B. Sajjan Shetty, and Basavaraj Swamy. Retired staff member Ashok Mahaling was felicitated during the programme for his long-standing contribution to the institution.

The school aims to use the silver jubilee as an opportunity to strengthen its educational and social outreach, highlighting the importance of community engagement and holistic development. Students, teachers, parents, and community members have been encouraged to actively participate in the programmes over the coming year. Organizers assured that each initiative will focus on learning, awareness, and social welfare, ensuring the celebrations are both meaningful and memorable for all participants.

Supreme Court's Remark on Freebies a Lesson for State Govt: MP Ramesh Jigajinagi

VIJAYAPUR

Responding to the Supreme Court's reported strong observations against the practice of announcing free schemes ahead of elections, MP Ramesh Jigajinagi said the Karnataka government should take note and shift its focus toward comprehensive development rather than "guarantee politics."

In a press statement, Jigajinagi alleged that Congress and several regional parties across states announce free schemes to gain power, which in turn hampers long-term development. He claimed that excessive focus on free food, free electricity, free transport and unemployment allowances has strained state finances and affected economic growth.

The MP further stated that the Congress government in Karnataka is struggling to effectively implement its guarantee schemes while also failing to prioritise non-guarantee developmental works. He alleged that funds for infrastructure, contractors' payments, government hospitals and recruitment processes have been adversely impacted.

Jigajinagi also accused the government of not allocating adequate funds to various corporations and boards meant for Dalits, minorities and backward communities. He urged the state government to reconsider its priorities and concentrate on balanced and sustainable development instead of relying heavily on free schemes.

Contractors Allege ₹38,000 Crore Dues Pending; Warn of Protest on March 6.

VIJAYAPUR

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association has alleged that despite the state government completing two-and-a-half years in office, several long-pending issues of contractors remain unresolved. In a press statement, State President Manjunath said that nearly ₹38,000 crore in pending payments from various government departments has not been released over the past two-and-a-half years. He stated that the matter has been brought to the attention of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and several other ministers. However, except for limited releases from the Public Works Department (PWD), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and the Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, most other departments have not cleared dues, he alleged.

Manjunath said that while it may not be feasible for the government to release the entire amount at once, it should have demonstrated sincerity by clearing payments in phases. Instead, he expressed dissatisfaction that contractors are being neglected. He further claimed that although the Chief Minister had scheduled meetings with association office-bearers on several occasions, these meetings were postponed without specific reasons.

According to him, no official meeting has been convened so far to hold detailed discussions on the issue.The association president said contractors across the state have patiently waited for two-and-a-half years, maintaining respect and trust in the government. Traditionally, pending payments were released during festivals such as Gowri-Ganesha, Dasara, and Deepavali, but this year no such relief has been provided, he pointed out.He reiterated that apart from PWD and BBMP, other departments have shown little response.

BJP Leader Alleges "Appeasement Politics," Demands Strict Action in Bagalkot Incident

VIJAYAPUR

BJP Mahanagara Mandal President Sandeep Patil Jhalaki has alleged that the State Government is showing "selective action" in recent law and order issues and demanded strict measures against those involved in the stone-pelting incident in Bagalkot.

In a press release issued on Saturday, Patil questioned why stringent action had not been taken against those who allegedly hurled stones and slippers at the District Superintendent of Police during a Shivaji Jayanti procession. He also criticised the government for arresting social activist Snehamayi Krishna in connection with a complaint, alleging that the move was intended to suppress voices exposing corruption.

Patil claimed that government employees and Hindu activists feel insecure under the present administration. He accused the Congress government of following appeasement politics and failing to act firmly against those responsible for communal disturbances.

Referring to the Bagalkot incident, he stated that stones were allegedly thrown from the vicinity of a mosque during the Shivaji Jayanti procession, resulting in injuries to the SP and two police constables. He alleged that arrests were made only after public pressure. Patil questioned whether Hindu processions such as Ganapati Utsav, Shivaji Jayanti, and other commemorative rallies should not be allowed to pass through public roads, including areas near mosques. He urged the government to abandon what he termed "appeasement policies" and ensure equal protection and justice for all communities.

Referring to the Bagalkot incident, he claimed stones were thrown near a mosque during the Shivaji Jayanti procession, injuring the SP and two constables, and arrests occurred only after public pressure

Bagalkot Leaders Demand Action After Shivaji Jayanti Violence

BAGALKOT

Following stone-pelting and slipper-throwing during the Shivaji Jayanti procession, Dr. Shekhar Mane and other community leaders submitted a representation demanding immediate arrests.

Dr. Mane, State Vice-President of the Maratha Kshatriya Samaj, told the media that their visit to the District Administration Building was to seek firm legal action, not to attend the peace meeting. He alleged the administration invited only Maratha leaders, creating community divisions. "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj represents the entire nation, not one community," he said, emphasizing that all communities should be included in discussions.

Tension persisted in Bagalkot city, particularly in the Killagalli area, following the incident. Police deployed around sensitive locations like Fanka Masjid and Kotaleshwar Temple have been closely monitoring the situation. Acting on instructions from Belagavi North Zone IGP Chetan Singh Rathore, the district police mobilized nearly 1,000 personnel, including five SPs, eight DySPs, 16 CPIs, and 32 PSIs, ensuring strict law enforcement.

Prohibitory orders under Section 163 remain in force, though a pre-scheduled grand procession is set for February 21 at 3:30 pm in Sector No. 52, Navanagar, as part of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh centenary celebrations. A stage programme will follow, with RSS leader Hanamant Malali as chief speaker. Authorities stressed that citizens must cooperate, maintain peace, and warned that any attempts to disturb communal harmony will be met with strict action.

Police conducted route marches through sensitive areas to instill public confidence, ensuring security at temples and mosques. Senior officials supervised the arrangements, emphasizing that heightened vigilance is precautionary and aimed at preserving communal harmony. Citizens have been urged not to spread rumors and maintain calm as security forces continue monitoring the city.

PARENTAL SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS

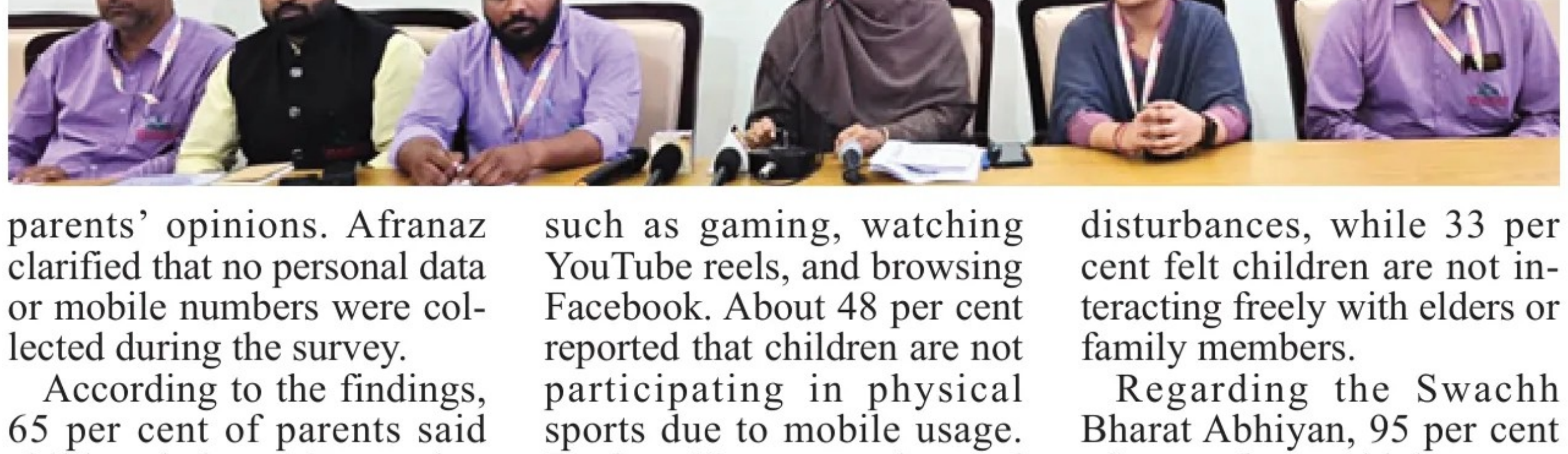
80% Parents Seek Ban on Social Media for Children Below 16: Shaheen College Survey

BIDAR

A survey conducted by students of Shaheen Degree College has revealed that 80 per cent of parents favour imposing restrictions on social media usage for children below 16 years of age, Principal Afranaz said. Addressing a press conference at the District Press Club on Saturday, Afranaz stated that parents expressed concern over the growing impact of excessive mobile usage on children. She noted that Australia has already imposed restrictions on social media usage for children under 16, and many parents opined that similar legislation should be implemented in India.

The survey covered three major themes — the impact of excessive mobile phone usage on children's mental health, awareness of laws related to women's safety, and the Swachh Bharat campaign.

The survey was conducted between January 10 and February 5, with participation from 200 students pursuing BA, BSc, BCom, and BCA courses. Students visited 825 households across Old City, Faizpur, Shahapur Gate, Rajgonda Colony, and Gumpa areas of Bidar city to collect parents' opinions. Afranaz clarified that no personal data or mobile numbers were collected during the survey.



According to the findings, 65 per cent of parents said children below 16 are using mobile phones primarily for non-educational purposes such as gaming, watching YouTube reels, and browsing Facebook. About 48 per cent reported that children are not participating in physical sports due to mobile usage. Further, 42 per cent observed health issues such as eye strain, headaches, and sleep disturbances, while 33 per cent felt children are not interacting freely with elders or family members.

Regarding the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, 95 per cent of respondents said they were aware of the campaign, and 90 per cent acknowledged cleanliness as their personal responsibility. While 60 per cent were aware of the Swachh Bharat mobile app, only 10 per cent had downloaded it. Of those who downloaded the app, just 20 per cent expressed satisfaction with it.

The survey also found that 35 per cent of households do not segregate dry and wet waste. Around 22 per cent said municipal authorities collect garbage door-to-door regularly, while 58 per cent stated that collection happens only occasionally.

On women's safety laws, 20.90 per cent of women respondents reported experiencing trolling on social media. About 68.40 per cent said they have some awareness of legal protections and are interested in learning more, but lack adequate access to information.

Afranaz said the objective of the survey was to gather public opinion and present it before the authorities. Students hope that the administration will take appropriate action based on the findings. Faculty members Prof. Abhilas Poladas, Dr. Sirajul Hasan, Prof. Mohammed Ikhlaq, Prof. Bilal Ahmed, Prof. Ashwini, and others were present at the press conference.

QUICK READ

CM Siddaramaiah visits Uttara Kannada district

Karwar

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will tour Uttara Kannada district on February 22. He will begin at 11:50 am in Manjuguni village, inaugurating a new bridge connecting Gangavali villages in Kumta Taluk, built by the Karnataka State Road Development Corporation. At 12:45 pm, he will attend multiple inaugurations under the joint auspices of District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Karwar Medical Institute, Public Works Department, including a 450-bed multi-specialty hospital, a bridge on State Highway-93, Khanapur Talaguppa, a new observatory in Yallapur Town, and a tourist temple in Mundagoda Taluk, officials said.

Unidentified body found on Puttur railway tracks

Puttur

The body of an unidentified person was discovered on the railway tracks near Haradi. Locals immediately alerted the Puttur police, who rushed to the site and began an investigation. Preliminary reports suggest the person may have died due to a train collision, though the exact identity is still unknown. The body has been sent for postmortem, and a case has been registered at Puttur Police Station. Authorities continue to investigate the incident to determine the circumstances of the death and trace any possible relatives of the deceased.

Bantwal Police Arrest Ganja Sale Suspect

Mangaluru

Bantwal police arrested a 30-year-old man for attempting to sell ganja in the area. The accused, identified as Prashant @ Prasad from Meramajalu, was found with 180 grams of ganja while trying to store it for sale to customers. Authorities also seized his two-wheeler during the investigation. The police conducted questioning and gathered evidence linking him to the intended sale. A case has been registered at Bantwal Rural Police Station, and the accused is in custody as the investigation continues to prevent further illegal drug distribution in the region.

Mandya forms district committee for public development

Chaluvarayaswamy outlined an annual vision plan for development in education, health, agriculture, housing, and social welfare, funded by various sources

MANDYA

A District Planning Committee has been established in Mandya to identify public issues and prepare a comprehensive development plan, Agriculture Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy announced at a meeting held at Zilla Panchayat's Kaveri Hall.

The committee will consolidate plans from rural, town, and urban local bodies, including Zilla Panchayats, Taluk Panchayats, Gram Panchayats, Town Panchayats, Municipal Councils, and Corporations. Its focus will include regional planning, allocation of water and natural resources, integrated facility development, and environmental protection.

Chaluvarayaswamy emphasized that the committee will prepare an annual vision plan covering women and child development, education, health, water supply and sanitation, housing, employment, agriculture, and social welfare. Funding will come from local resources, state and central finance commission grants, and central and state sector project funds.

Local bodies are required to contribute annually to the committee, with amounts ranging from Rs. 5,000 from Gram Panchayats to Rs. 2 lakh from Municipal Corporations. Progress reviews will be conducted every three months to ensure effective implementation.

District Collector Dr. Kumar highlighted that Mandya ranks sixth in Karnataka's Human Development Index, with a per capita income of Rs. 3,06,448, compared to the state average of Rs. 3,39,813.

Zilla Panchayat CEO KR Nandini noted that training workshops for district officials have already been conducted on the District Sustainable Development Plan-2031 and District Human Development Report-2025, with technical guidance from Mysore University economists. MLAs Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda and P. Ravikumar, along with senior officials from the police, electricity, and other departments, attended the meeting.

CEO inspects schools to improve SSLC results

MANDYA

Chief Executive Officer K.R. Nandini conducted surprise inspections of government high schools in Jakkanahalli and Chinya Gram Panchayats of Pandavapura and Nagamangala taluks to assess low SSLC results and overall school facilities.

During her visit, the CEO interacted with students and teachers to understand learning challenges. She reviewed teaching methods, the effectiveness of special evening classes, and use of the "Kalikamitra" program, noting that Kannada-medium students benefit more than English-medium students. She suggested translating Kalikamitra for English-medium students to improve comprehension.

The CEO observed shortages in infrastructure and staff. In Jakkanahalli, 98 Kannada-medium students were crowded in inadequate classrooms. She immediately instructed field education officers and headmasters to allocate an alternate room and ensure proper seating arrangements. She also addressed the lack of lighting and heating systems, directing immediate installation of bulbs and checking the school's heating facilities.

Six guest teachers have been appointed to cover staff shortages, but some leave early due to transport issues. Nandini instructed officials to coordinate with transport authorities to ensure teachers remain for complete teaching hours.

The CEO noted infrastructure and staff shortages, directing alternate room allocation, proper seating, lighting installation, and heating system checks at Jakkanahalli school for Kannada-medium students

The CEO also emphasized library facilities, asking a vacant room in the primary school to be converted into a library promptly. She conducted a video dialogue with all district headmasters to assess school conditions and guide improvements.

In Chinya, Nandini engaged with students, noting that girls scored 92.6% in the previous year and encouraged boys to improve results within a month. She praised students' enthusiasm when asked who would like to see their photo on the achievement board this year.

Taluk Executive Officer Veena, Education Officer Akshar Dasoha, Panchayat Development Officer Suresha, headmasters Manjegowda and Nagegowda, Panchayat Secretary Rakshit, and school teachers participated in the inspections.

Each taluk will have a security committee for exam papers, with GPS-tracked vehicles, CCTV surveillance, and strict electronic device bans

Haveri PUC exams scheduled to start from Feb 28

HAVERI

The second Pre-University (PUC) examinations in Haveri district are set to be held from February 28 to March 17 across 25 centers, District Commissioner Dr. Vijayamahantesh Danammavara announced. Officials have been directed to ensure that the exams are conducted responsibly, transparently, and in a student-friendly environment.

At a preparatory meeting at the District Magistrate's office, Dr. Danammavara stressed the importance of maintaining the integrity of the assessment. He instructed officers, supervisors, and observers to coordinate closely to avoid any lapses during the exams.

Each taluk will have a three-member committee comprising the Tahsildar, Field Education Officer, and school principal to handle question papers and answer sheets. Vehicles transporting papers will be GPS-tracked and escorted by police to ensure secure delivery. CCTV surveillance is mandatory during the handling of papers, and all electronic devices, including mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, and smart watches, are strictly banned inside exam halls.

Examination halls will prioritize cleanliness, proper lighting, ventilation, furniture arrangement, drinking water, and toilets.

Science lecturers will supervise Science and Commerce subjects, ensuring that their children are not appearing in the same session. Special transport for rural students and uninterrupted power supply will be provided throughout the exams.

A 200-meter restricted zone has been imposed around all centers, including the closure of nearby cyber cafes and Zarax outlets. A total of 14,264 students—including new, repeat, private, and improvement candidates—are registered to appear.

Officials from multiple departments, school heads, and law enforcement personnel attended the preparatory meeting to coordinate efforts for smooth and secure examinations.

Ballari roads, festival, schemes updates for public

BALLARI

The Public Works Department has announced a road traffic survey on state highways and main district roads from February 26 to 28. Executive Engineer of PWD requested all motorists to drive slowly near survey stations, where cameras and signboards will be installed. The survey will begin at 6 am on February 26 and continue until 6 am on February 28. Information collected will help determine road traffic intensity, decide road width, plan upgrades, and improve road conditions. Public cooperation is requested to ensure a smooth survey.

In other news, the Shree Kanaka Durgamma Sidibandi Rathotsava will be held in Ballari on February 24. District Superintendent of Police Dr. Suman D. Pannekar announced parking arrangements for visitors coming from different sides of the city.

Vehicles from Moka will be parked at Allam Sumangalamma College near Gandhinagar 1st Cross, from Kappagal at Kitturrani Chennamma School, from Siruguppa and Hospet near Basava Bhavan and District Central Jail, and from Bangalore and Anantapur near Kamma Bhavan and Municipal College Avarana. Roads leading to Durgamma Gudi Circle through UB Circle, Talur Road, Kappagal Road, and Moka Road will be blocked during the event to manage traffic.

Meanwhile, the Backward Classes Welfare Department has extended the online application period for the Fee Reimbursement program for 2025-26. Eligible backward class and category-1 nomad/semi-nomad students pursuing post-matric courses can apply. District Officer Jalalappa urged students to submit applications and avail the benefits of the scheme before the new deadline.

Age of knowledge marks modern governance era: Gowda

MANDYA

Padma Shri awardee M. Anke Gowda said governance today is guided by wisdom, marking a shift into the age of knowledge. He shared his insights during a two-day workshop on Karnataka Health Sciences organized by the Institute of Mandya Sciences at MIMS Hall in Mandya.

Gowda encouraged students, saying that diligent study leads from darkness to light and helps one achieve high positions in life. Medical Administrative Officer Dr. G. Shivakumar praised the Medical Library Association for its role in providing quality information.

Chief Librarian Dr. K. Ananth Nag advised resource persons to use reliable knowledge in daily work to become more effective. The program was attended by Dr. H.S. Sidda Mallya, director of the association, Dr. Darshan Kumar, and librarian Leelavati Kempegowda, emphasizing the importance of learning, knowledge application, and skill development for future professionals.

Wildlife forum demands probe into Bison hunting

SUBRAHMANYA

The Environment and Wildlife Conservation Forum has called for a strict investigation into the illegal hunting of bison in Aittur village near Subrahmanya. Malatesh Aras, state president of the forum, highlighted concerns over negligence by local forest officials in handling the case.

A social activist from Kadaba filed a complaint in early February, alleging that the local authorities failed to follow procedures under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Taking the matter seriously, Bishwajit Mishra, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, ordered a thorough inquiry.

Mishra directed the Deputy Conservator of Forests of the Mangaluru division to examine all points raised in the complaint and take legal action if officials are found negligent. The authorities are also required to provide full transparency about the steps taken and submit a detailed report to the central office.

"This is a wake-up call for officials to take wildlife crimes seriously," Aras said, urging Forest Minister Ishwar Khandre to issue immediate instructions for strict enforcement.

In a related incident, the body of a male tiger, estimated to be five to six years old, was discovered in the Gundal reservoir of Kollegal taluk. Forest officials suspect it may have died after getting caught in a snare, raising further concerns about poaching and wildlife safety in the region. Conservationists hope these actions signal a stronger commitment to protecting endangered species and enforcing wildlife laws effectively.

DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

Youth urged to learn skills for jobs

MANDYA

The district administration organized a District Level Employment Fair 2026 to tackle unemployment and provide job opportunities based on youth qualifications. The event was inaugurated at Kala Bhawan, Mandya University, under the joint effort of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of Karnataka, Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rural Skill Yojana, Zilla Panchayat, and Mandya University.

District officials said 150 companies participated, with over 6,000 job aspirants registered online. They assured that large-scale employment fairs would be organized twice a year to address local unemployment. Youth were advised to improve their skills, adopt modern technology, and explore self-employment, ensuring economic empowerment and the ability to employ others.

Ministerial and district leaders highlighted the need for youth to stay technologically informed to compete in today's world. Programs such as the Goskar Yuva Utsav and heli-tourism initiatives were mentioned as part of district development efforts.

A.B. Ramesh Bandi Siddegowda, Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Chairman, noted that limited industrial areas make job placement challenging, but managers should utilize every opportunity to employ aspirants. Dinesh Gooligowda, Vice President of the Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority, said the government allocated ₹912 crores statewide and ₹21 crores to Mandya youth for skill development and employment.

MLA P. Ravikumar Ganiga highlighted that an American company has begun hiring locals, and the government aims to create 20,000 jobs in six months. District Panchayat officials also emphasized online registration for rural students and support for self-employment for those not securing jobs.

The fair concluded with the distribution of appointment letters to successful candidates. Other dignitaries present included Legislative Council members Appaji Gowda, Vijayalakshmi Raghunandan, District Commissioner Dr. Kumar, SP V.J. Shobha Rani, and Chancellor M.P. Krishna Kumar.

Forest department rescues rare 70-year turtle

KARWAR

A rare Green Sea Turtle, estimated to be 60 to 70 years old and weighing over 100 kilograms, was safely returned to the sea by the Forest Department after being rescued from the Kali river in Karwar.

The turtle, searching for food near the Santoshi Mata temple by Sunkeri, got trapped in a mud pit caused by tidal differences and became weak. Locals quickly informed authorities, prompting the Coastal Marine Cell of the Forest Department to act.

"Two days ago, the turtle was struggling and in serious condition," said ACF K.D. Nayak. "We knew we had to act fast." The team, along with RFO Kiran and experts from the 'Reef Watch' organization in Kundapur, carefully rescued the exhausted turtle and treated it for a full day.

After treatment, the turtle was released this morning at Tagore Beach in Karwar. Environmentalists and locals cheered as the majestic creature slowly swam back into the sea. Officials said this is the first rescue of such a large turtle in Karwar's history.

"It is our responsibility to protect sea biodiversity," Nayak added. "Saving this turtle is a small but important step in conserving marine life."

The successful rescue highlights the importance of timely intervention and expert care in protecting endangered species and promoting awareness about marine conservation in the region.

QUICK READ

Applications open for Taluk Coordinator post

Mangalore
The Women and Child Development Department has invited applications for the post of Taluk Coordinator on an outsourcing basis under the Child Development Scheme in Mangaluru Rural Area. Eligible candidates must be graduates with proficiency in Kannada and English (speaking and writing), and have at least 2 years of experience in technology or software applications. Age should be 21 to 35 years. The selected candidate will receive a monthly honorarium of Rs. 20,000. Interested individuals can submit applications with required documents at the Child Development Scheme Officer's office, 3rd Floor, Urva Market Building by March 2, 2026.

CM Siddaramaiah to visit Udupi district on tour

Udupi
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will tour Udupi district on February 25. He will leave Bangalore at 10 a.m. by special flight, arriving at Mangalore International Airport at 11 a.m. From there, he will take a helicopter to Karkala Taluk Stadium helipad, landing at 11:30 a.m. During his visit, he will inaugurate the newly constructed Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan at Kabettu and the Kisan Sabha Hall at Mahatma Gandhi Residential High School, Kukkundur. The CM will also meet district officials for discussions before returning to Bangalore by 4 p.m. via Mangalore Airport.

Chandragutti temple development promised before next grand fair

Bangarappa announced development plans, coordinating with Archaeological and Mujarai Departments for temple repairs, including windows and leakages

SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka School Education and Literacy Minister S. Madhu Bangarappa has promised that the comprehensive development of the historic Chandragutti Temple will be completed before the next annual fair, assuring full financial support for the project.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for new infrastructure works at the temple on Saturday, the minister said the recently formed Chandragutti Temple Development Authority will take responsibility for planned improvements. He said the government is committed to providing complete funding for the development activities.

The minister inaugurated development works worth ₹2.84 crore at the temple. Officials said the projects aim to improve facilities for devotees who visit the shrine in large numbers during fairs and festivals.

Bangarappa said that the development will be carried out in coordination with the Archaeological Department and the Mujarai Department. Several repair works are planned as parts of the temple structure have become damaged over time. Windows need repair and parts of the building are leaking during rains.

He also announced plans to improve access to the temple. While steps already exist from the main entrance, another staircase will be constructed on the opposite side for easier movement of visitors. A protective roof will also be built in certain areas.

Basic facilities for pilgrims are also part of the project. Dormitories, toilets, parking areas and other amenities will be developed on nearby land so that devotees can stay comfortably during temple events.

The minister said Soraba taluk has several tourist attractions including Gudavi Bird Sanctuary, Banavasi and other historic sites, and efforts are being made to promote tourism in the district. He added that government welfare schemes are also supporting many families across the region.

Applications open for new K'taka One centres

UDUPI

The Udupi District Collector's Office has invited applications from interested candidates to open vacant Karnataka One Centres in Karkala and Kapu Municipalities and Udupi Municipal Corporation. These centers provide multiple government services under one roof, making it easier for citizens to access state services through the Seva Sindhu portal. Interested candidates can apply online at http://www.titi.gov.it/public/public/. The last date to submit applications is March 2, 2026. The initiative aims to expand public service access and bring government services closer to residents in urban local bodies across the district.

Collector calls for extra grant for fishermen

UDUPI

Swaroop emphasized Malpe port's year-round activity with 2 lakh fishermen, urging full delivery of financial aid and subsidies to ensure self-reliance and correct funding gaps

District Collector Swaroopa T.K. has instructed officials to submit a proposal to the government for additional grants to support fishermen and improve their livelihoods. She gave these directions while presiding over the district-level selection committee meeting of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at the Collector's office in Manipal Rajatadri on Saturday.

Swaroopa highlighted that Malpe port is active year-round, with over two lakh fishermen engaged in fishing and allied activities.

He said financial assistance and subsidies under various government schemes should reach beneficiaries fully, enabling them to become self-reliant.

Currently, many fishermen are not receiving the complete benefits, which needs correction through additional funding.

The district has 5,598 motorized boats, 2,017 mechanized boats, and 447 traditional boats. Swaroop stressed that all ongoing programs under PMMSY, including mussel, clam, and shellfish farming, must achieve 100% progress. Last year, six beneficiaries received Rs. 2 crore for establishing new units, and subsidies were provided for mechanized deep-sea fishing for traditional fishermen.

Under the Boat Building Assistance Scheme, the district set a target of eight units, with nine applications already submitted. Swaroop instructed officials to select eligible beneficiaries through proper lottery or verification.

Deputy Director of Fisheries Kumaraswamy B.V., Lead Bank Manager Harish, District Press Officer Manjunath, and other committee members attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, a press conference by the Chairman of the Guru Corporation Board will be held at Mahatma Gandhi Residential High School, Kukkundur, on February 23 at 3 PM. A vehicle has been arranged for journalists to leave the news department at 2:15 PM. Journalists have been requested to arrive on time to attend the event.

Protesters demand removal of Prime Minister Modi

SHIVAMOGGA

A group of Youth Congress workers staged a protest in the city on Saturday demanding the removal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from office. They gathered near the statue of Shivappa Nayaka, raised slogans and later submitted a petition to the President through the District Collector.

The protesters said certain international reports and political issues had hurt the dignity of the country. They also accused the Prime Minister of taking decisions that may harm Indian farmers. According to them, allowing foreign agricultural products into Indian markets without proper duty could create serious problems for local farmers who are already struggling with debt and losses.

Leaders at the protest claimed the government speaks about Make in India but often promotes foreign ideas and products. They also criticized statements made during the coronavirus period and said leaders must act responsibly while addressing the public.

The Youth Congress members urged the President to take note of their complaint and examine the matter seriously. They said their protest was meant to protect democracy, farmers and the nation from wrong decisions.

Several local Congress leaders and supporters joined the demonstration and expressed strong anger against the central leadership. Police were present at the spot to maintain order and ensure the protest remained peaceful.

After submitting the petition, the group dispersed while repeating their demand for action and promising to continue raising their voice in the coming days as well if needed. They said the issue concerns the future of farmers, workers, youth and democracy across the country today and tomorrow too they insisted again during the protest gathering in the city Saturday.

Eshwarappa slams stone pelting during Shivaji procession

SHIVAMOGGA

Former Deputy Chief Minister K. S. Eshwarappa strongly condemned the alleged stone-pelting incident that took place during a Shivaji procession in Bagalkote. Speaking to reporters in Shivamogga, he said the attack injured several people, including police personnel, and demanded strict action from the government.

Eshwarappa claimed that a peaceful procession was targeted when stones were thrown from the top of a mosque. According to him, several participants and police officers were hurt in the incident, including the district Superintendent of Police. He criticised the police department's response and said officials must take the matter seriously and ensure accountability.

He also alleged that the officer who was injured tried to downplay the seriousness of the incident while speaking to the media. Eshwarappa argued that such incidents show weakness in law enforcement and insisted that those responsible must be identified and punished under the law.

During the press conference, he attacked the state government led by Siddaramaiah, accusing it of failing to control such incidents.

He said similar tensions had occurred earlier in several towns across Karnataka and urged authorities to take preventive steps to maintain peace and public safety.

Eshwarappa also commented on the ongoing political differences within the ruling party, referring to discussions involving Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar. He said the government should clarify the situation and focus on governance instead of internal disputes.

He further criticised remarks made by minister Priyank Kharge and accused the government of restricting media freedom in Vidhana Soudha. Several local leaders and supporters were present during the press interaction.

Health department shuts unauthorized Vitla Clinic

MANGALORE

Health officials in Mangalore have raided and sealed an unauthorized blood testing center in Vitla after discrepancies were found in patient reports. The Raksha Clinic & Laboratory came under scrutiny when Sharath Shetty, a patient, noticed inconsistencies in his blood test results and opted for testing at another facility. The clinic had also issued an unsigned report, prompting a formal complaint to the District Health and Family Welfare Officer.

Following the complaint, a joint investigation was conducted by the Bantwala Taluk Health Officer and the District Planning Development Officer. Based on the findings, District Enforcement Officer Dr. Deepa Prabhu, Taluk Health Officer Dr. Ashok Kumar Rai, and staff visited Raksha Clinic in Badanaje, Vitla, on Saturday. Officials confirmed that the laboratory was operating illegally without proper KPMEA registration, leading to the immediate closure and sealing of the clinic. Police from Whitla Peçilis station assisted in the operation.

The District Health and Family Welfare Officer warned that strict action will be taken against any unauthorized medical establishments in the district under the KPMEA Act. Authorities stressed that such measures are necessary to ensure the safety of patients and maintain trust in healthcare services.

Udupi College hosts Leprosy Awareness Campaign

UDUPI

A leprosy awareness campaign was recently organized at G. Shankar First Class Women's College in Udupi under the guidance of the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Health and Family Welfare Department, and the District Leprosy Eradication Division. The program carried the slogan, "Ending Discrimination, Protecting Dignity."

College Principal Dr. Niketan, who presided over the event, urged students to learn about leprosy and spread awareness in the community to help achieve a leprosy-free society. "Youth have an important role as health ambassadors to educate others and support early detection and treatment," she said.

District Health Education Officer Shashidhar H served as a resource person, providing detailed information about leprosy, its symptoms, and the importance of timely medical intervention. He stressed that rapid identification and treatment of leprosy cases are essential to eliminating the disease from communities.

During the program, Health Inspector Bharat administered an oath on leprosy awareness to all National Service Scheme (NSS) students, mentors, and lecturers present. NSS coordinator Dr. Ravish B. and para-medical worker Raju also addressed the participants, emphasizing the need for continued community engagement and proactive health measures. The campaign highlighted the role of students in promoting health education and combating stigma associated with leprosy, reinforcing the message that awareness, early detection, and treatment are key to protecting dignity and building a healthier society.

Coastal Council Submits Petition for District Development

MANGALORE

The Coastal Council submitted a petition to Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar, requesting that it be forwarded to the Chief Minister for action on the comprehensive development of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts. The appeal emphasizes reserving funds in the 2026–27 state budget and granting urgent administrative approval for key projects. It covers vital areas such as improvement of coastal control zones, port and fisheries infrastructure, integrated beach development, water transport, agriculture and health sector strengthening, and road connectivity. The petition also recommends empowering the Coastal Development Board as the nodal agency for district development, creating a phased schedule for major projects, and providing a special grant package for each coastal district. Present at the submission were Coastal Development Board Chairman M.A. Ghafoor, former Minister Ramanatha Rai, Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board Chairperson Shalette Lavina Pinto, KSRTC Ex-Director T.K. Sudhir, and other officials, highlighting the collaborative push for coastal progress.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is given to the General public that my client. That my client Canara Bank Sira Branch, Sira taluk is going to sanction loan in favour of Sri. Lakshmana son of late Rangappa, resident of Lakkavvanahalli Village, Gowdagere Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumakuru Dist. has purchased land in Sy No.338 (old Sy No.338/2), situated at Changavara village, Gowdagere Hobli, Sira Taluk, from one Sri. Rangappa, under registered sale deed dt 16.10.2017. At the time of purchase, Rangappa (vendor), had handed over original Grant certificate dt 14.12.1975 to Sri. Lakshmana. Unfortunately he has lost the original Grant certificate dt 14.12.1975. In this regard he has lodged online complaint to police department, vide LOSS of Articles No.2072333/2026, dt.20.02.2026 Hence anybody having title interest, and right in any manner over the schedule property, may intimate the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed with the loan transactions as not claimed. Further it is requested that if anybody finds above said original Grant certificate dt 14.12.1975, the same may be handed over either to me or to my client.

H. Wajid Ahmed
Advocate and Notary
R.T. Road Sira Town
Mob: 9448101786

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, our client Kumari.Shivani Patel D/o Gowri Shankar Singh R/at: #734, 4th 'E' Main, WOC Road, 2nd Stage, Near Modi Hospital, Mahalaxmipuram, Bangaluru-86 is willing to purchase land measurement 0-30 guntas in Sy.No.17/2 and 0-15 guntas in Sy No.17/6 Situated at Basavenahalli village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, present Bangalore South District from its owner Sri.Paramesha.B S/o Bassappa.S have purchased same through sale deed Dt.06-05-2024 vide Document 635/2023-24 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Magadi from its owner Sri.N.Suresh Kumar S/o Late Nagarajaiah. If any persons having any objection for the proposed purchase or having any right in the schedule property may lodge their written objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence WITHIN SEVEN DAYS from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding and same will be waived and our client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural property Bearing Sy.No.17/2, Measuring 30 guntas Situated at Basavenahalli Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk and Bounded on East by: property belongs to Bidimane Bommanna, West by: Government Road, North by: Sy No. 16, South by: Sy No.17/6.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural property Bearing Sy No.17/6 Measuring 0-15 guntas, situated at Basavenahalli Village, Solur Hobali, Magadi Taluk and bounded on: East by: property belongs to Bidimane Bommanna, West by: Road, North by: Sy No.17/2, South by: Sy No.17/7.

A.S.SIDDARAJU Advocate
Hosapete Road, Near Pvt
Bus Stop, Magadi-562120.
Mob: 9980250797.

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IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT HOSAKOTE
C.MIS.NO:-108/2026

BETWEEN:- 1. Sri.Shivakumar.A.C, S/o Late A.C.Channabasappa, Aged about 63 years, R/at:-Atturu Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. **...Petitioner**
AND:- The Thahasildar, Birth & Death Register, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. **...Respondent**

PEPAR PUBLICATION DRAFT

The Uncle of the petitioner by name Devegowda S/o Late A.C.Siddegowda died on 08-07-1959 at Atturu Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District The petitioner has filed this petition for obtaining of death certificate of said Devegowda S/o Late A.C.Siddegowda died on 08-07-1959, the petitioner published this matter for anybody interesting persons or by a pleader if in this matter will appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by pleader on 27.03.2026. Take notice than in default of your appearance, which this petition will be disposed of ex-party.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this of 21.02.2026.

By order of the court
Sheristedar, Principal Civil Judge at Hosakote
Advocate for petitioners: **Latha.M.** Advocate
KAR 2371/2021 Hosakote.
Place:-Hosakote Date:- 21-02-2026

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.543 /2025

Petitioner: 6. Sri.K.Nagendra Kumar S/o A.N.Krishnappa Aged about 52 years, R/at Arudi Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others
V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grandfather of petitioner by name LATE HANUMANTHANNA S/O LATE THIPPANNA who died on 16.08.1946 at Arudi Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 23.03.2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 21.02.2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Advocate: **B.S.Mallikarjunaiah,**
Opposite to Court, 4th Ward, Rojipura,
Doddaballapur Town.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, our client Smt.B.R.Chethana D/o PH Revanna R/at: #734, 4th 'E' Main, WOC Road, 2nd Stage, Near Modi Hospital, Mahalaxmipuram, Bangaluru-86 is willing to purchase land measurement including Karabh 0-16 guntas, total 7 Acre 0-04 guntas in Sy.No.109 Situated at Chikkasoluru village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, present Bangalore South District from its owner Smt.G.K.Vaani W/o Gurumurthy have got giftdeed same through gift deed Dt.29-03-2016 vide Document 6609/2015-16 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Magadi from its owner Sri.G.K.Hariprakash S/o Late G.Y.Krishnan.

If any persons having any objection for the proposed purchase or having any right in the schedule property may lodge their written objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence WITHIN SEVEN DAYS from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding and same will be waived and our client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural property Bearing Sy.No.109, Measuring including karab 0-16 guntas, total extent 7 Acre, 0- 04 guntas Situated at Chikkasoluru Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Bengaluru South District and Bounded on East by: Government Road, West by: Kalyanapura Village Border, North by: tank bund, South by: property belongs to Doddappaiah.

A.S.SIDDARAJU Advocate
Hosapete Road, Near Pvt
Bus Stop, Magadi-562120.
Mob: 9980250797.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.242 /2025

Petitioner: 6. Sri.K.Nagendra Kumar S/o A.N.Krishnappa Aged about 52 years, R/at Arudi Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others
V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the father of petitioner by name LATE A.N.KRISHNAPPA S/O LATE DODDANARASAPPA who died on 11.12.2022 at Arudi Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 26.03.2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 21.02.2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Advocate: **B.S.Mallikarjunaiah,**
Opposite to Court, 4th Ward, Rojipura,
Doddaballapur Town.

QUICK READ

Millet procurement begins under MSP Scheme

Chitradurga

The procurement of millet from farmers under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme 2025-26 will begin on February 24 at multiple centers in Hosdurga Taluk. The process will be inaugurated by Hosdurga MLA and Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Chairman BG Govindappa. The first millet purchase will start at Srirampur Millet Buying Center at 10 a.m., followed by the inauguration of a "Saave" purchase center at Durga Cereal Farmers Company, Srirampur at 12 noon. At 1:30 p.m., procurement will continue at APMC yard and TAPCMS centers in Hosdurga, said the Joint Director of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.

Women's Sports Event to Begin in Karwar

Karwar

A women's sports event will be held on February 22 at 9:30 am at Marikamba Stadium, Shirsi, organized jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Youth Empowerment & Sports Department. The event will be inaugurated by Minister of Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport Mankala Vaidya, with MLA Bhimanna T. Nayaka presiding. Key attendees include Vidhan Parishad Chairman Basavaraja Horatti, MLA Satish K. Sail, MP Vishweshwar Hegade Kageri, MLAs RV Deshpande, Shivaram Hebbar, Dinakara K. Shetty, Legislative Council MLA S. V. Sankanur, and local officials like Shantarama Budna Siddi, Ganapathy D. Ulvekar, and District Guarantee Schemes Chairman Satish Nayka.

BJP WARNS CONGRESS OVER ANTI-DEVELOPMENT ACTS

Gowda condemned half-naked Congress protests at the AI summit, calling them anti-national acts that insult India's development and mislead the public

RAMNAGAR

Jagannath Gowda, president of the district youth BJP unit, criticized the Congress party for opposing national development and said the BJP will make India stronger if needed. Speaking at a press conference on Saturday at the city BJP office, he stressed that Congress should learn to use technology for the country's progress.

He highlighted the recent AI Impact Summit, held globally in India from February 16 to 20, which was attended by more than 500 CEOs from over 100 countries, over 50 organizations, ministers, and dignitaries.

He said artificial intelligence (AI) can make decisions like humans and has the potential to perform half of human work. "AI can even convert garbage into soil within 48 hours, helping cities like Bangalore," he said, calling India a world leader in AI technology.

Gowda condemned the conduct of young Congress workers who protested half-naked at the AI summit, saying their actions insulted India while the country was showcasing its AI achievements. "The opposition is not focusing on development but engaging in anti-national activities. Their behavior misleads the public and insults India's progress," he said.

He warned that the youth BJP unit would continue protesting against Congress until it stops such acts and works constructively for the country.

BJP district president Anandaswamy, Yuva Morcha general secretary Ramu, secretary Krishna, former director of Ramanagara authority Kalaiya, and youth leaders HS Manjunath, Pratap, Gyanesh, Sumanth, and Choukalli Manjunath were present at the press conference.

Manjunath announced taluk and unit leadership appointments based on merit, rewarding contributions with promotions and active member participation

JDS focuses on strengthening district party units

RAMANAGARA

Strengthening the party organization in the district is the top priority, said A. Manjunath, state executive member of JDS, at a press conference held at the city office on Saturday. He congratulated the newly appointed district president, H.C. Jayamuthu, and outlined plans for organizing party activities at all levels.

Manjunath said that party presidents will be appointed in all five taluks, with leaders and workers given posts based on merit.

Office bearers will be selected for all 36 units to ensure active participation of dedicated members. He added that those who have contributed at the district level will be recognized at the state level, and those serving at taluk level will be promoted to district responsibilities.

He stressed that responsibilities will be assigned carefully before the upcoming local body elections. "Vote mapping is ongoing, and appointed party workers must perform well or risk losing votes," he said.

At present, taluk presidents have been appointed for three taluks: Sivalingaiah for Ramanagara, Govindahalli Nagaraju for Channapatna, and Kabbale Gowda for Kanakapura. Appointments for Harohalli and Magadi will be made soon, focusing on strengthening the organization at the grassroots.

New district president H.C. Jayamuthu, who served as Channapatna taluk president for eleven years, said he worked tirelessly to secure victories for former Chief Minister and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and to win local body elections. He pledged to work with taluk presidents, leaders, and workers to build a strong party structure in the district.

Present at the program were Ramanagara Taluk President Sabbakere Sivalingappa, Channapatna Taluk President Govindahalli Nagaraju, Kanakapura Taluk President Nagaraju, and leaders including Devaraju, Narasimhamurthy, B. Umesh, Narasimhaiah, Balageri Ravi, Venkatesh, Gooligowda, Kumar, Yogesh, Jayakumar, Studio Chandru, Chinnaswamy, Sharadagowda, Ramya Saraswati, and Poornima.

Women entrepreneurs urged to register online

KOPPAL

The Karnataka State Women Development Corporation launched the Grilakshmi Digital Marketing App on January 9, aimed at promoting women entrepreneurs. The platform allows women to upload details about their businesses, including photos and product information, to boost their business visibility. Entrepreneurs can submit information on the website https://gruhalakshmidigital.org, including business name, email, phone number, products, and business photos. The Deputy Director of Women and Child Development Department encouraged women to take advantage of the platform and contact the Koppal Development Inspector's office for assistance.

K. V. Prabhakar urges gratitude towards one's school

KOLAR

Chief Minister's Media Adviser K. V. Prabhakar said that expressing gratitude to the school where one studied is like bowing to the sacred gift of knowledge. He spoke after inaugurating a newly built hall at the Government Pre-University College in Kolar on Friday.

Prabhakar said his success, discipline and personality were shaped by the guidance and dedication of his teachers and the school environment. Because of this, he felt proud to return and support the institution where he began his learning journey.

He explained that the first thing he did after becoming Media Adviser to the Chief Minister was to visit his old school and thank those who helped him receive education. He said helping the school was a small gesture of gratitude towards the place that gave him knowledge and values. Prabhakar also thanked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi for supporting the development work.

He said remembering one's school is not just a tradition but a way of honouring the foundation that shapes a person's life. Schools, he added, are not only places where lessons are taught but institutions that build character and confidence.

Prabhakar told students that no matter how successful a person becomes, they should never forget their roots. Visiting their school and helping it grow keeps memories alive and inspires the next generation.

He encouraged former students and well-wishers to support schools by donating books, improving buildings or helping poor students continue their education.

MLA Kothur Manjunath, other officials, teachers and students were present during the programme and appreciated the initiative.

Prabhakar credited his success to teachers and school, returning as Chief Minister's Media Adviser to express gratitude and support the institution that shaped his learning and values

Free PU science classes to start at Maulana Azad School

SRINIVASPUR

The District Minority Welfare Officer, Mailarappa, visited Maulana Azad Public School to check the school's academic standards and facilities. During the visit, he announced that from the 2026–27 academic year, free Pre-University (PU) Science classes will be offered to students with full government support.

Mailarappa reviewed the progress of students preparing for their upcoming SSLC exams and discussed teaching plans with the staff. He also inaugurated a trial run of a newly installed digital board under the government-approved Smart Classroom scheme. The board will be used for about two and a half months to enhance learning. The officer said that digital teaching will help students understand concepts better through visual and interactive methods, making lessons more interesting and effective.

He further said that coaching for competitive exams like NEET, KCET, and JEE will begin right from the First PUC level. Admission applications will be invited soon.

The district officer also assured that the government will continue to support the school's development. Plans include building a compound wall, installing CCTV cameras, adding more digital boards, and laying tiles in the school premises. He emphasized that providing quality education, especially to minority students, is a priority.

Speaking to students and teachers, Mailarappa encouraged them to make the most of these new opportunities and continue striving for excellence. He said that every child deserves the best education to shape their future.

The inspection and announcement were attended by Shabbir Ahmed, headmistress Arun, teachers, and parents, who expressed happiness at the new facilities and upcoming PU Science program.

MP orders completion of district works quickly

CHITRADURGA

MP Govinda M. Karajola has directed officials to complete all development works in the district by the end of March, using funds released under central and state schemes. He gave these instructions during the District Development Coordination and Disha Committee meeting at the District Panchayat Hall on Saturday.

Karajola emphasized priority for the poor, particularly Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes, urging officials to complete sanctioned houses for them. He said unclaimed houses should be allotted to other deserving citizens. Education also received focus, with officials told to improve the district's SSLC results to the top three or four positions.

Drinking water problems were highlighted. The MP stressed supplying clean water under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Reports show 500 out of 1,500 projects inspected were poor, including low pipe quality and water pressure issues. Payments to contractors for substandard work were to be withheld until repairs are completed. Repair of 140 damaged water plants must be finished before summer. Karajola also raised wildlife safety, expressing concern over bear deaths and illegal blasting affecting animals. He directed action to protect forests and monitor windfarm activities.

The MP warned about student health, following fever outbreaks at Social Welfare hostels due to poor hygiene. Weekly inspections and safe drinking water arrangements were instructed.

Regarding corporate responsibility, Karajola asked officials to track CSR funds spent locally, ensuring companies use them for district development. He also reviewed key government schemes, including Manrega, PM-Shri, Ujjwala, PMKSY, and crop loss compensation, and emphasized timely execution.

District Collector T. Venkatesh, Additional Police Commissioner Sivakumar, Railway Land Acquisition Officer Venkatesh Naik, and other officials attended. Karajola urged all departments to act responsibly and transparently, ensuring development reaches citizens efficiently.

Dr. Thippeswamy urges strict child food safety

CHITRADURGA

Every grain stored in warehouses affects a child's health, education, and future, warned Dr. K.T. Thippeswamy, member of the State Commission for Protection of Children's Rights. He made the remarks while inspecting the Food and Civil Supplies Department's warehouses in Chitradurga.

Dr. Thippeswamy emphasized that food supplied to schools and hostels must be treated as highly sensitive. The quality of children's food should never be compromised. He urged officials to maintain cleanliness in warehouses, follow proper grain storage methods, and ensure pest and rodent control. The first-come, first-served rule must be strictly observed, and guidelines under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India as well as the Food Safety Act-2006 should be followed at every stage. "If damaged or moist food items are found, they should be immediately separated. Negligence in collecting or distributing food amounts to a violation of children's fundamental rights," he said. Dr. Thippeswamy also suggested that the children's helpline number 1098 be displayed prominently at all warehouses and fair price shops in the district.

District Child Protection Officer Premamurthy, Assistant Director of Food and Civil Supplies SK Mallikarjun, warehouse managers, and staff from the District Child Protection Unit were present during the inspection. Officials were reminded of the critical role proper food management plays in safeguarding the well-being of children and ensuring that public resources are used responsibly.

Post-Matric fee refund deadline extended again

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The Backward Classes Welfare Department has extended the last date for applying to the post-matric fee refund program for the 2025–26 academic year. Eligible students from Backward Classes and Category-1 nomad/semi-nomad communities now have time until 5 March 2026 to submit their applications online. This program supports students enrolled in a wide range of courses, including B.Arch, MCA, MD, MS, M.Tech, MBA, MBBS, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Nursing, B.Ed, Engineering, Pharmacy, Dental, and paramedical diploma courses. The fee refund helps reduce the financial burden of education and encourages students to continue their studies. Applicants must submit their forms and required documents through http://ssp.postmatric.karnataka.gov.in. For program details and guidelines, visit http://bcwd.karnataka.gov.in. Students facing issues can contact the helplines 8050770005, email bcwdhelpline@gmail.com, or the State Scholarship support at postmatrichelp@karnataka.gov.in. Officials urged students to apply before the new deadline to avoid missing this opportunity.

TUMKUR ABACUS CHAMPIONS

Tumkur abacus students shine in state competition

TUMKUR

CALCI
Abacus Academy

Students from a Calci Abacus School in Tumkur made the city proud by winning prizes in a State-level Abacus competition held in Hubballi in 2026. One student secured first place while another won second place, bringing recognition to their school and teachers.

The event also marked a special day for many young learners as 26 students successfully completed their Abacus graduation. A small ceremony was organised at the Sri Vaishnava Community Hall in Maruti Nagar where certificates and awards were distributed to the students.

The programme began with the lighting of a lamp and speeches by guests. Seshadripuram School Principal Nanda H. N. spoke about the importance of mathematics in daily life.

He said numbers continue from zero to infinity and children must develop strong interest and concentration while learning the subject. According to him, learning Abacus improves thinking ability and helps students solve calculations faster.

Tumkur DIET official Srirangaraju said education should include different learning activities for children. Methods such as table practice and Abacus training help improve brain activity and increase confidence in mathematics, he explained.

Study Centre Director Dr. B. T. Muddesh said today's children must be prepared to face the world with knowledge and quality education. He added that Abacus training helps students overcome fear of mathematics and develop quick calculation skills without depending on calculators.

During the competition in Hubballi, where more than 1,700 students participated, L. Adyagowda won first prize and P. M. Samarth secured second prize. Several other students also received consolation prizes.

School principal Soumya S. Shiroor, branch head Santosh P. Shiroor, teacher Chetana Bodhak, staff members and parents attended the function and encouraged the students.

QUICK READ

Mild quake jolts Pak, no major damage

NEW DELHI

An earthquake measuring 3.9 on the Richter scale shook Pakistan on Saturday. The tremor struck at a shallow depth of 10 km, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) reported. The epicenter was at latitude 33.76 N and longitude 72.68 E. Pakistan lies along the collision zone of the Indian and Eurasian plates, making it prone to earthquakes. Areas like Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan are most at risk, while Punjab and Sindh also face potential tremors.

JeM plans attacks on Indian bars worldwide

NEW DELHI

The Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) is reportedly recruiting young women to target Indian-owned bars, pubs, and nightclubs globally. Intelligence agencies say these women will work in such places to study layouts and gather information for possible attacks. While several locations in India are being watched, JeM is also scouting venues abroad. Officials describe this as a reconnaissance mission. The group's focus on women employees is seen as a new strategy to plan international-scale assaults.

Bail Rejected

Court rejects bail for PFI leader Ashraf

KOCHI

A court has refused bail to Ashraf, national in-charge of the banned PFI's education wing. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) opposed the plea, saying he organised armed training camps and spread ISIS ideology. Ashraf is also accused in the murder of RSS leader Sreenivasan in Palakkad and is the second accused in cases linked to anti-national activities by PFI. NIA said he conducted arms training at Periyar Valley in Kochi and Trivandrum to plan terrorist acts.

India–Brazil ties amplify Global South's voice: Modi

‘Our talks focused on ways to deepen the India-Brazil trade partnership. We are committed to taking bilateral trade much beyond $20 billion in the next 5 years’

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday praised the strong partnership between India and Brazil, calling it a “win-win relationship.” Speaking alongside Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at Hyderabad House, he said the two countries are committed to enhancing ties across trade, technology, energy, and agriculture. Modi stated that bilateral trade aims to surpass $20 billion in the coming decade, reflecting deep trust between both nations.

He emphasised Brazil's role as India's largest trading partner in Latin America and highlighted plans to expand the India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement. Technology and innovation cooperation, including artificial intelligence, supercomputers, blockchain, and a Centre of Excellence for Digital Public Infrastructure in Brazil, are also being strengthened to benefit the Global South. Modi stressed that technology must be inclusive and promote social progress.

Energy cooperation remains a “strong pillar,” with India and Brazil collaborating on renewables, ethanol blending, sustainable aviation fuel, and biofuels. Brazil's interest in joining the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and agreements on critical minerals are key steps toward resilient global supply chains. Defence collaboration is growing, demonstrating mutual trust and strategic coordination.

Modi also highlighted cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry, and food security, including the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for oilseeds, pulses, and integrated farming in Brazil. He credited President Lula's leadership for deepening friendship and trust, stating the visit added new energy to the historic AI Summit and the strategic India-Brazil partnership. Both leaders stressed shared goals, purpose, and long-term commitment to enhancing bilateral relations.

Assam set to become eastern industrial hub: Shah

GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Assam is set to become the industrial hub of eastern and northeastern India. Speaking at the foundation stone ceremony for the 10th Battalion Assam Police campus in Kamrup, he highlighted rapid industrial growth under the BJP's double-engine government. Shah noted that Prime Minister Modi has allocated nearly Rs 15 lakh crore for Assam's development, aiming to boost infrastructure and create jobs. Over the next five years, the state will see a major industrial push strengthening its economy. The Home Minister also praised the government's action against land encroachment, freeing over one lakh bighas, including 174 bighas for the new police campus. He said security challenges are being turned into strengths through better training, facilities, and infrastructure. Shah emphasized improvements in roads, railways, and bridges, which have enhanced connectivity and accelerated economic activity. He assured that the Centre remains committed to Assam's peace, progress, and prosperity, adding that strong governance and sustained investment are shaping a new and industrially vibrant Assam.

Rahul reviews Cong poll losses, chalks out strategies

MUMBAI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met senior party colleagues in Mumbai on Saturday to review the party's poor performance in the January 15 Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections. Sources said Gandhi discussed the political situation in Maharashtra and plans to strengthen the party organisation at the grassroots level.

The meeting took place over lunch at a suburban hotel before Gandhi returned to Delhi. Attendees included Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal and Mumbai unit chief and Lok Sabha MP Varsha Gaikwad. Gandhi questioned the Congress' performance in the 227-member BMC, where the party secured only 24 seats. Party leaders are debating whether contesting the elections without its Maha Vikas Aghadi allies, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP), contributed to the poor outcome.

Earlier in the day, Gandhi appeared before the Bhiwandi magistrate's court in Thane district to furnish a fresh surety in a 2014 defamation case filed by an RSS activist. He named Sapkal as his new guarantor, replacing former Union minister Shivraj Patil, who passed away in December 2025. Sources said Gandhi stressed the need for Congress to strengthen its organisational structure in Mumbai and across Maharashtra. He also held a one-on-one discussion with Sapkal to chart steps for revitalising the party and improving coordination at local levels.

The meeting reflects Congress' efforts to analyse its electoral setbacks and prepare for future challenges in Maharashtra politics.

BJP slams Cong for shirtless stir at AI Summit

NEW DELHI

कांग्रेस + राहुल गांधी = गद्दार
का अपमान

BJP leaders and workers held a demonstration on Saturday near Congress headquarters on Akbar Road, protesting the “shirtless” demonstration by the Congress youth wing at the AI Impact Summit. Protesters carried placards and raised slogans, accusing Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi of tarnishing India's image.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari called the IYC protest an act of “treason.” Sachdeva said Congress and Rahul Gandhi could not accept India's success and were opposing the nation itself. “The protest by hired goons of the Congress dented the country's image on the world stage, and every Indian proud of our nation is ashamed,” he added. State BJP leaders, including general secretary Vishnu Mittal and MLA Raj Kumar Bhatia, joined hundreds of workers at Man Singh Road. Police stopped the protesters at a barricade before they could march to the Congress office.

The controversy began on Friday when Indian Youth Congress workers staged a “shirtless protest” inside Bharat Mandapam during the AI Summit. They walked around holding t-shirts with slogans against the government and the India-US trade deal. Following the protest, Delhi Police arrested four IYC workers, and a probe into a possible wider conspiracy is underway.

The AI Impact Summit, attended by heads of state, global AI leaders, tech industry executives, academicians, and philanthropists, highlighted India's growing presence in artificial intelligence. BJP leaders say the Congress protest overshadowed the event and hurt India's international image, prompting their demonstration outside the party headquarters.

SC issues pan-India orders on waste management

NEW DELHI

Flagging uneven compliance with the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, the Supreme Court on Friday issued nationwide directions to ensure proper implementation. The court noted that citizens' right to a clean environment is an “inseparable part” of the right to life and stressed that India cannot wait for further legislative refinements while gaps persist.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and S V N Bhatti highlighted that segregation of waste into wet, dry, and hazardous streams is still not fully practised in many urban and rural areas. Massive dumpsites remain active, although bio-remediation efforts have begun. The court said neglecting municipal solid waste affects public health and the economy. The judges directed councillors, mayors, corporators, and ward members to take the lead in educating citizens on source segregation. District collectors will audit infrastructure, track compliance, and report to chief secretaries. Local bodies must set deadlines to achieve 100% compliance and submit photographic evidence to verify progress. Pollution control boards are tasked with expediting infrastructure for four-stream waste segregation, while bulk waste generators must comply by March 31.

Delhi Assembly summons Punjab officials over Atishi video

NEW DELHI

In the ongoing controversy over Delhi Leader of Opposition Atishi's video, the Delhi Assembly Secretariat on Saturday summoned Punjab Police chief Gaurav Yadav, Jalandhar Police Commissioner Dhanpreet Kaur, and Punjab Home Department official Alok Shekhar to appear before the Committee of Privileges on February 27 at 3 p.m. at MLA Lounge-I. The summons, issued under Rules 172 and 220 of the Delhi Assembly's Rules of Procedure, pertains to complaints of breach of privilege and contempt regarding alleged remarks by Atishi against Sikh Gurus. The notice warned that non-compliance could trigger proceedings for contempt or breach of privilege.

The Punjab government, however, defended the FIR registered by Jalandhar Police on January 9, stating that the video clip was created or modified outside the House and cannot be treated as its property. In a letter, Punjab's Under Secretary, Home, Kailash Gautam, explained that registration of an FIR for a cognizable offence outside the Assembly does not amount to a breach of privilege.

The Committee of Privileges recorded the replies from Punjab officials and advised them to obtain the opinion of the Advocate General of Punjab on the matter. A copy of the opinion is to be submitted to the Secretariat by February 27, 2026.

The FIR arose after a doctored version of Atishi's statement circulated online, perceived as disrespectful toward Sikh Gurus. The Committee is currently examining the conduct of authorities and the handling of communications by the Delhi Assembly Secretariat in this matter, aiming to ensure legislative privileges and proper procedures are upheld.

SIRA TALUK PUBLIC HOSPITAL
TUMKUR DISTRICT PIN 572137
E-MAIL : gh.sira82@gmail.com phone:08135-275212
NO: GHS/DIET/54/2025-26 Date: 16.02.2026

Office Memorandum

Sub: Tender Offering For Providing Milk.Bun and Prepared Food Services To Taluk general Hospital, Sira.

Tender Offering For Providing Milk.Bun and Prepared Food Services to Taluk general Hospital, Sira During The period 2026-27, Tender Online Slate Will Be opening as http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in Date: 13/02/2026 to 23/02/2026 Time 4.30 PM. If Any Queries please Contact the Chief Medical Officer Taluk General Hospital, Sira in Office Timings only.

E-Procurment Portal Tender Date And Time Statement
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು :
Tender No : GHS/DIET/54/2025-26, DATE: 16.02.2026
Tender Proposes: Milk.Bun and Prepared Food. E.M.D amount Rs.1.20.000-00. Commencement of downloading of e-tender forms from website Gh.Sira82@gmail.com, Date : 13.02.2026. Last date for uploading of Tender in e-procurement portal Date: 23/02/2026 up to 04.30 PM. Date & Time for Opening of Technical bid Tenders Date: 25/02/2026 10.30 A.M. Date and Time for Opening of Finance Bid Date; 27/02/2026 10.30 A.M. In Case Of Any Government Holydays Date And Time Will Postponed Next Working Days TENDER AMOUNT RS.60 LAKHS.

Sd/-Chief Medical Officer
Taluk General Hospital, Sira-572137 Tumkur Dist.
DIPR/TUM/454/KSMCA/2025-26

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, VC Division,
Mandya-571401. Mandya Dist Ph: 08232-225046

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-17/2025-26
Dated : 20.02.2026
Two cover System
Through e-procurement

This office's tender Notification No.17/2025-26, Dated: 20.02.2026 for a total No of 05 works (Minimum amount-55.00 lakhs Maximum amount Rs. 499.00 lakhs). Item wise rate tender Is Invited from eligible KPWD Class-III & Above contractors. Tender queries and clarification as per e-portal. E.M.D should be paid through E-payment. Last date of submission of tenders through online : As per e-Portal, Date of opening of tender As per e-portal. For additional Information log on to http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact on official Land-line number 08232-225046 During office hours

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd VC Division, Mandya.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/813/2025–26

CH
CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

Notice is hereby given that the following share certificates issued by **ASM Technologies Limited** under **Folio No. ASM004813**, standing in the name of **JLAVIA D'SOUZA** (clerical/typographical error by the Company), the correct name being **FLAVIA D'SOUZA**, now known as **FLAVIA MARIA DSOUZA PEREIRA**, have been lost or misplaced.

The registered shareholder has applied to the Company for issuance of duplicate share certificate(s).

The details of the share certificates are as follows: **Folio No.: ASM004813**
Name of Shareholder: **JLAVIA D'SOUZA**
(Now known as **FLAVIA MARIA DSOUZA PEREIRA**)

Certificate No.	Distinctive No. From	Distinctive No. To	No. of Equity Shares
23256	2315501	2315600	100
23257	2315601	2315700	100
23258	2315701	2315800	100
23259	2315801	2315900	100
23260	2315901	2316000	100
23261	2316001	2316100	100
23262	2316101	2316200	100
23263	2316201	2316300	100
23264	2316301	2316400	100
23265	2316401	2316500	100

Total: 1,000 (One Thousand) Equity Shares of Face Value Rs.10/- each.
Any person(s) who has/have any claim in respect of the said share certificate(s) should lodge such claim with full supporting documents with the Company or its Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot Nos. 31-32, Financial District, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500032, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no valid claim is received within the stipulated period, the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) to the applicant and no further claim shall be entertained thereafter.

Date: 22nd February 2026
Place: Mumbai
Sd/-
FLAVIA D'SOUZA
(Now known as FLAVIA MARIA DSOUZA PEREIRA)

POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, KALABURAGI CITY
No: COP/ACT-3/STS/TW/14/25-26(Call-2) Date : 21.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

Commissioner Of police Kalaburgi City invites tender for Supply of Two-Wheeler Vehicles (Motorcycles/Scooters) for Kalburagi city With Accessories, KALBURGI Regarding Purchasing Two wheelers and Their Equipments For Kalaburgi City. Eligibility for bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement mode for Details are available in the site : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows;
Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website- http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in No.COP/ACT-3/STS/TW/14/25-26 (Call-2) Tender Publishing Date 21.02.2026 Time:5:00PM, Pre bid meeting, 27.02.2026 TIME:11:00AM, Last Date for Uploading of Tender ine-procurement platform on or before : 07-03-2026 TIME 5:00PM, Opening of Technical Bid: 09.03.2026 TIME 11:00AM Opening of Price/Financial Bid, 11.03.2026 11:00AM, Tender amount: 59,94,000.00, EMD Amount: 1,19,880.00, Contact Address for communication, Commissioner Of police, Kalaburgi City, Kalaburgi Ph:08472-248500. storeseckbc@ksp.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Admistrative officer
Commissioner of police, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/ 1103/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

QUICK READ

DMK forms 7-member panel for poll talks

CHENNAI

The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Saturday announced a seven-member seat-sharing committee led by senior leader T R Baalu to hold discussions with alliance partners ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The committee includes DMK treasurer Baalu as head, principal secretary K N Nehru, deputy general secretaries Tiruchi Siva and A Raja, organisation secretary R S Bharathi, and executive committee members E V Velu and M R K Panneerselvam. The panel has been formed following the conclusion of the Assembly session on February 20. The DMK has been focusing on training booth committee members and conducting a membership drive, and the committee will now begin formal talks with allies to finalise seat-sharing arrangements for the upcoming polls.

9 CRPF personnel hurt after vehicle plunges into river

SRINAGAR

Nine CRPF personnel were injured after their vehicle fell into a river here on Saturday, officials said. The accident occurred on the Dagpora-Umerhair Road in the Ahmadnagar locality on the Srinagar outskirts. The vehicle fell into the river after the driver lost control of it, officials said. The injured Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel have been shifted to the SKIMS hospital in Soura, where their condition is said to be stable, they added.

CM Mamata reaffirms protection for all languages

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday emphasized that all languages are equally valuable and must be protected from any kind of attack. She also extended greetings to people on International Mother Language Day. Paying tribute to those who lost their lives during various mother language movements, the CM said her government honors linguistic diversity and has granted official recognition to several languages, including Santhali, Kurukh, Kurmali, Nepali, Urdu, Rajbansi, Kamtapuri, Punjabi, and Telugu. She added that Bengali is not only a language with a rich literary heritage but also part of a broader commitment to respecting all linguistic communities.

Delhi's digital push to ensure transparent school admissions

The initiative replaces outdated software with a secure cloud-based system designed to reduce human intervention and prevent fraud

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday launched a digital platform to make admissions in schools for Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Disadvantaged Group (DG), and Children With Special Needs (CWSN) fully transparent.

The initiative replaces outdated software with a secure cloud-based system designed to reduce human intervention and prevent fraud.

The platform mandates Aadhaar-based identity verification, digital verification of birth certificates, and online income certificate checks. According to officials, this will prevent duplication, eliminate middlemen, and ensure eligible children access free education in private schools fairly. Parents will also receive real-time updates on application status.

The Chief Minister noted that earlier, multiple forms for the same child and manipulation by intermediaries created delays and misuse of funds. "With online applications, duplication controls, and document verification, the process will now be swift, transparent, and fair," she said.

The platform integrates e-District services with over 7,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) across Delhi, providing around 75 government services, including certificates for income, caste, residence, birth, death, social welfare, food, and education. Each service carries a nominal fee of Rs 30, ensuring affordability and accessibility.

Gupta also announced the creation of a digital Asset Management Portal to track Delhi Government assets and the 'CM Pragati' portal for real-time monitoring of government projects.

These measures aim to prevent cost escalation, improve execution, and safeguard public funds.

Education Minister Ashish Sood highlighted that the portal, developed with NIC, ensures secure, irregularity-free admissions. IT Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh added that cyber security has been strengthened and a WhatsApp-based service will soon allow citizens to access information and lodge complaints online.

Rahul Gandhi to lead mega MGNREGA rally

MULUGU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, is expected to address a large public meeting in Mulugu district in the second or third week of March. The rally is part of the Congress party's nationwide "MGNREGA Bachao Sangram" campaign against the proposed repeal of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Party sources said Gandhi personally expressed interest in participating in the agitation and recommended that Telangana Congress organise the rally in the Adivasi-dominated Mulugu Assembly segment. A significant number of residents in the area depend on MGNREGA for livelihood security, making the district a strategic location for the protest.

Telangana's historical role in shaping MGNREGA adds symbolic weight to the choice of venue. Leaders noted that the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government drew from rural employment experiences in the region while enacting the legislation, turning it into a legal right to work.

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Danasari Anasuya, also known as Seethakka, has been appointed as a core member of the AICC coordination committee and will oversee the organisation of the Mulugu rally.

The Congress high command recently met with Telangana's state Cabinet, led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, in New Delhi to finalise political strategy and organisational preparations for the event. Telangana had earlier passed a resolution opposing the repeal of MGNREGA and rejecting its proposed replacement with the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act.

Rahul Gandhi favours Mulugu due to its predominantly Adivasi population and high MGNREGA participation. Congress leaders believe the rally will provide a strong platform to highlight the scheme's importance and mobilise grassroots support against its repeal.

> **'Gandhi expressed interest in taking part in the rally and recommended that Telangana Cong organise it at Adivasi-dominated Mulugu'**

88 nations back New Delhi AI Declaration

NEW DELHI

AI
IMPACT
SUMMIT
भारत 2026 INDIA
सर्वजन हिताय | सर्वजन सुखाय
WELFARE FOR ALL | HAPPINESS OF ALL

The 'AI Impact Summit 2026' concluded in New Delhi on Saturday with a landmark agreement called the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact. The Declaration was endorsed by 88 countries and international organisations, showing strong global support for using artificial intelligence (AI) to benefit everyone.

The Declaration is guided by the idea of "Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya," which means welfare and happiness for all. It calls for the fair sharing of AI benefits and stronger international cooperation. It also respects each nation's laws and promotes trustworthy, accessible AI systems.

The agreement is based on seven main pillars: Democratising AI Resources; Economic Growth and Social Good; Secure and Trusted AI; AI for Science; Access for Social Empowerment; Human Capital Development; and Resilient, Efficient, and Innovative AI Systems. These pillars aim to make AI safe, fair, and widely useful.

It highlights AI's role in transforming economies, supporting science, and improving public services. It encourages open-source AI tools and energy-efficient technology. The Declaration stresses the importance of digital infrastructure and affordable internet to unlock AI's full potential.

Inspired by "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," meaning "the world is one family," the Declaration promotes affordable access to AI resources for all countries. It also refers to the Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI, a voluntary framework to help nations develop AI safely and innovatively.

Cops drag Goa MLA out of govt office after overnight stir

PANAJI

Police allegedly dragged Revolutionary Goans Party MLA Viresh Borkar out of the Town and Country Planning (TCP) office here along with several others on Saturday morning after they protested there overnight against the conversion of village land into a settlement zone.

The legislator accused the police of manhandling him and submitted an application of breach of privilege against the officials concerned.

After the police action, the legislator and the villagers chose a different site to continue their protest against the government, while TCP minister Vishwajit Rane refused to revoke the order, calling the protesters as "blackmailers".

The protesters claimed that 84,000 square metres of the land in Palem-Siridao village in St Andre assembly constituency in North Goa was converted into a settlement zone from the non-settlement zone by the TCP department by misusing provisions in the section 39-A of the Act.

Tamil Nadu polls: OPS says Stalin may return as Chief Minister

On Friday, the residents of the village marched to the TCP department office to hold the protest. Around 100 villagers, mostly women, spent the night there, to press for their demand for immediate revocation of the order.

On Saturday morning, a police team went to the TCP office and dragged MLA Borkar from the site along with others. The police personnel could be seen lifting the legislator from the spot and bringing him out from the office.

Talking about the action, the MLA said, "This kind of behaviour is unacceptable. Being a legislator, I cannot be manhandled by the police as the assembly session has already been summoned by the Governor. No such action can be taken against me without the permission of the Speaker of the House."

The budget session of the state assembly is scheduled to start from March 6.

Sabarimala gold case sparks political storm as verdict clears tantri

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The recent remarks by the Kollam Vigilance Court that there was "no iota of evidence" against Tantri Kandararu Rajeevaru in the Sabarimala gold loss case have sparked a fresh political row in Kerala. Opposition parties have targeted the state government over his arrest and detention.

BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar questioned why the Tantri was arrested despite the lack of evidence. He alleged that the arrest was intended to divert attention from the involvement of former Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran. Chandrasekhar also claimed that no proper investigation was being conducted against Surendran or the current Devaswom Minister V N Vasavan. He demanded that the probe be handed over to the CBI to expose flaws in the investigation.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, V D Satheesan, said the SIT should clarify why the Tantri was arrested and what offence he had allegedly committed. He noted that the Opposition had sought clarification on January 11 and called for High Court supervision of the investigation into the 40-day imprisonment of the chief priest. Satheesan added that the public deserved to know the circumstances behind his detention.

Senior Congress leader Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan accused the government of targeting the Tantri, who manages only spiritual matters at the Sabarimala temple, to shield the real culprits.

He said the SIT, controlled by the state government, had created a distorted version of events. Radhakrishnan also suggested external pressure influenced the arrest and demanded that those responsible be revealed.

Political discussions have also focused on the Tantri's claim in court that his arrest was in retaliation for opposing the entry of women of menstruating age following the 2018 Supreme Court order. The court's bail order has strengthened claims that the Tantri was falsely implicated, deepening the controversy around the case.

Srinagar court sentences guardian for minor driving violation

SRINAGAR : In a notable judgement, a Srinagar court has sentenced the guardian of a minor to three years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 25,000 for allowing the juvenile to drive a vehicle. The court also cancelled the registration of the vehicle involved for twelve months. Shabir Ahmad Malik, Special Mobile Magistrate (Traffic) Kashmir, said that under Section 199-A of the Motor Vehicles Act, the guardian of a juvenile committing an offence is legally liable for punishment. The court noted that in addition to fines and imprisonment, the minor would be ineligible for a driving or learner's license until reaching 25 years of age. The guardian appeared before the court with his counsel, pleaded guilty, and chose not to defend himself. Based on the voluntary plea, the court convicted him and imposed the sentence.

India—Brazil Business Forum
Fórum Empresarial Índia—Brasil

India-Brazil ties enter transformative phase'

NEW DELHI

Himani Pande, DPIIT Additional Secretary, on Saturday said the India-Brazil partnership is ready for a more ambitious and transformative phase.

Speaking at the Brazil-India Business Forum in New Delhi, she noted that current trade levels, around USD 15 billion, are far below the relationship's strategic potential. She called for stronger efforts to surpass the previously set 2030 target of USD 20 billion.

Pande highlighted that recent high-level visits, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Brazil and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's visit to India, have created fresh political momentum. She stressed the need to overcome trade barriers and regulatory hurdles that have sometimes constrained commerce and investment.

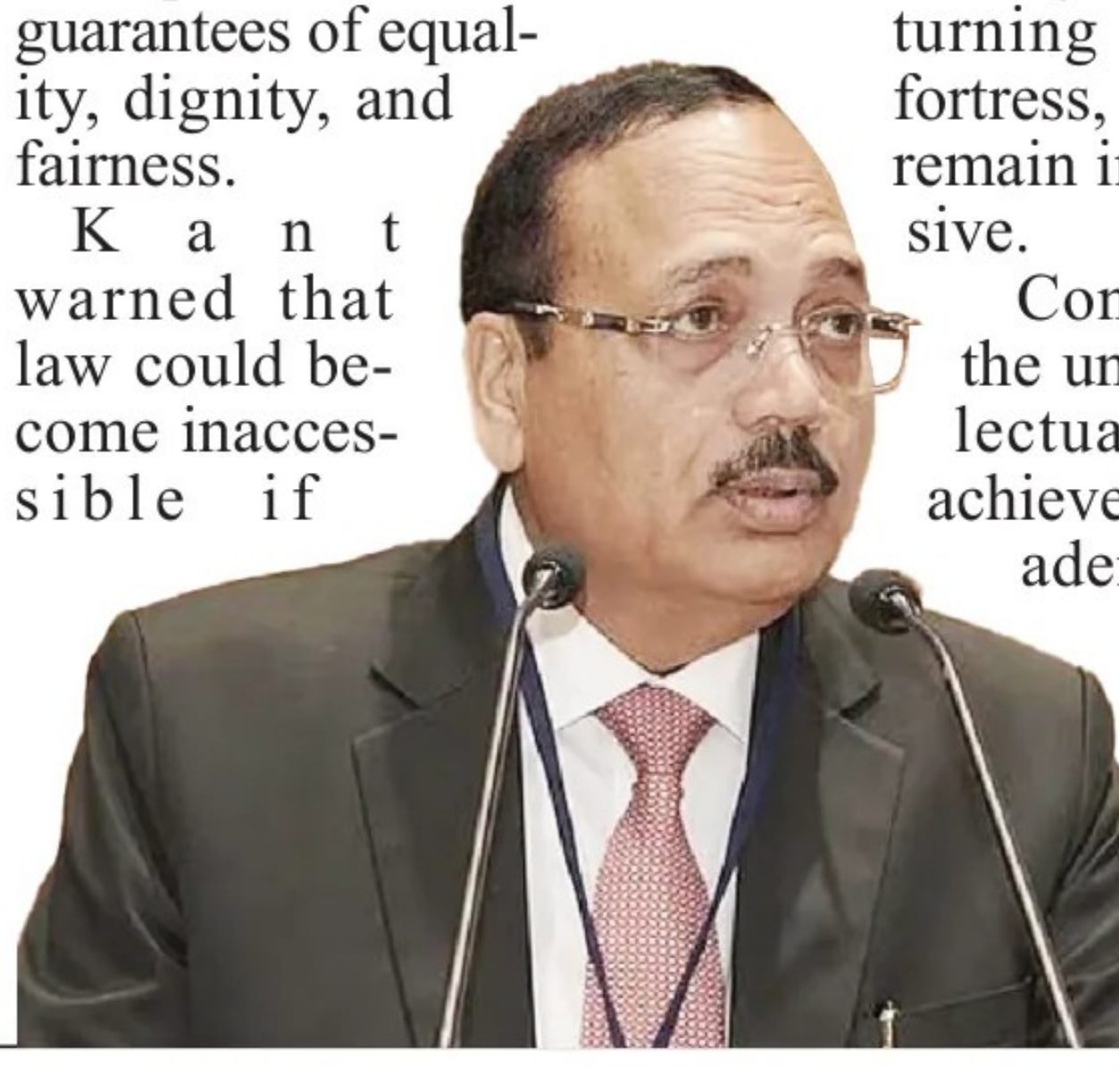
The minister outlined five strategic pillars for immediate focus: defence and security, food and nutritional security, energy transition and climate action, digital transformation and emerging technologies, and industrial partnerships. These areas, she said, reflect shared priorities and offer a roadmap for sustained collaboration.

She highlighted India's strong economic performance, with GDP growth at 7.8 per cent, driven by services, industrial revival through PLI schemes, and enhanced infrastructure spending, including capital expenditure of around USD 120 billion for 2024-25.

LAW A 'LIVING FORUM'

LAW MUST SHIFT FROM FORTRESS TO FORUM: CJI

JODHPUR



Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday urged young lawyers to transform law from a "fortress" protecting society into an open "forum" for debate and justice. Speaking at the 18th Convocation of National Law University in Jodhpur, he stressed that law should not remain a closed citadel but a living, evolving public space.

Using Mehrangarh Fort as a metaphor, Kant explained that early law functioned like a fortress, defending society against disorder and arbitrariness. "But in a constitutional democracy, law must transform into a forum where differences are debated, rights articulated, and power reasoned with," he said.

The CJI reminded graduates that law is never a finished product. Quoting Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., he said, "The life of the law has not been logic but experience." Law evolves with society, and its legitimacy depends on its ability to engage with change. He cited the Magna Carta and India's Article 14 as examples of how law has expanded from narrow protections to broad guarantees of equality, dignity, and fairness.

Kant warned that law could become inaccessible if wrapped in complex jargon, serving only a privileged few. He urged graduates to resist turning law into an arcane fortress, stressing that it must remain intelligible and inclusive.

Concluding, he praised the university for its intellectual rigor and alumni achievements in the Bar, academia, public service, and judiciary. "Excellence must not become exclusion," he said, urging graduates to carry forward not just degrees but a commitment to keeping law in India an open forum in an unfinished Republic.

KEY POINTS

- Law must evolve as a living document
- Transform law from fortress to open forum
- Simplify legal language for public access
- Simplify legal language for public access

QUICK READ

Pak faces rising poverty, income inequality

Islamabad

Pakistan's poverty rate has jumped to 29%, the highest in 11 years, while income inequality is at its worst since 1998, showing serious economic mismanagement. About 70 million people now live below the monthly poverty line of Rs 8,484. Rural areas are hardest hit, with village poverty rising to 36.2%. Provinces like Balochistan, KP, Sindh, and Punjab also face sharp increases. Household incomes have fallen in real terms, unemployment is 7.1%, and inflation continues to erode buying power, according to government surveys.

Balochistan sees surge in state-linked killings

Balochistan

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee report alleges a sharp rise in killings, disappearances, and staged police encounters in Balochistan during February. At least 19 deaths were documented, though actual numbers may be higher due to media restrictions and fear among families. Victims included unarmed civilians, minors, and students, with some forcibly disappeared students later found dead. High-profile cases include 24-year-old Hamdan Baloch, taken by Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Department. The report raises serious questions about the province's security policies and the safety of ordinary citizens.

Pennsylvania boy faces adult trial for shooting

Washington

An 11-year-old boy in Pennsylvania will stand trial as an adult after allegedly shooting his adoptive father, Douglas Dietz, during a birthday celebration in January. The boy reportedly used a revolver from a bedroom safe, claiming he "had someone in mind" to shoot. Police said he later admitted the killing to his mother. Defence lawyers argued his age and mental development warrant juvenile court and plan to appeal. The ruling highlights the serious legal consequences even for very young offenders.

Schumer terms Trump tariffs illegal, seeks refund

'Trump should have simply accepted the court ruling and ended the tariffs instead of seeking new ways to impose them'

WASHINGTON DC

US Senator Chuck Schumer has strongly criticized former President Donald Trump's global tariffs, calling them "illegal" and insisting that the money collected must be returned to Americans.

Speaking to reporters, Schumer said the Supreme Court's recent 6-3 ruling striking down the tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act was correct but also highlighted the chaos caused by the policy.

"All the promises Trump made about bringing back manufacturing jobs have failed," he said. "Instead, prices have risen, inflation has worsened, and jobs are lost."

Schumer also condemned Trump's attacks on the Supreme Court justices, describing them as childish. "He was like a ten-year-old: name calling, foot stomping, berating Supreme Court Justices. It's outrageous," he said. He added that Trump should have simply accepted the court ruling and ended the tariffs instead of seeking new ways to impose them, which would only increase the trade deficit and further harm American families.

When asked about the possibility of tariffs not being refunded, Schumer warned, "See you in court. If the tariffs are illegal, the money must be returned. Courts have held him responsible in many cases, and two-thirds of our lawsuits have resulted in judgments against him."

The Supreme Court decision marks a major legal setback for Trump's trade agenda, reaffirming that only Congress has the authority to set tariffs. In response, Trump called the ruling a "disgrace" and immediately imposed a temporary 10% tariff under a different law, while exploring alternative legal options.

The ruling has divided lawmakers and sparked questions about the impact on trade policy, constitutional limits on presidential power, and how refunds will be handled. Schumer emphasized that ignoring the law is not an option and insisted that accountability is essential to protect American consumers and the nation's economy.

Trump announces new 10% tariff exemptions

WASHINGTON DC

Following a Supreme Court ruling blocking his previous sweeping tariffs, US President Donald Trump has signed a new executive order imposing a temporary 10% tariff on goods imported from several countries, including India.

The order, under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, takes effect on February 24, 2026, at 12:01 am Eastern Standard Time and will last for 150 days. Existing higher duties have been repealed, while the new tariff applies broadly.

A White House fact sheet clarified that some goods are exempt to protect the US economy and ensure tariffs address international payments issues effectively. Exemptions include certain critical minerals, metals used in currency and bullion, energy products, and natural resources or fertilizers that cannot be produced domestically in sufficient quantities.

Agricultural products such as beef, tomatoes, and oranges, along with pharmaceuticals and some electronics, will also be excluded. Passenger vehicles, light trucks, medium and heavy-duty vehicles, buses, parts for vehicles, aerospace products, books, donations, and accompanied baggage will not attract any tariff.

While most Indian goods now face the new 10 per cent duty, some products will continue to carry higher tariffs. Steel, aluminium, and copper will remain at 50 per cent, and certain auto components will be charged 25 per cent.

The temporary tariff plan is intended to address trade imbalances while protecting critical sectors and consumers in the United States. The move comes amid ongoing trade negotiations and follows the Supreme Court's decision that limited the president's authority to impose broad tariffs without Congressional approval.

This new measure signals a more targeted approach to tariffs, aiming to maintain pressure on trade partners while avoiding unnecessary economic disruption for essential goods and services.

US trade deals remain strong despite tariff changes

WASHINGTON DC

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer confirmed that America's trade deals with countries worldwide remain fully in effect, despite recent legal challenges and tariff changes. Greer emphasized that while the tools used to implement trade policy may change, the overall strategy will remain the same.

In a post on X, Greer wrote, "Our trade deals covering over half of the world's population remain in full effect." He noted that these agreements have opened market access not seen for decades and are expected to be honoured by partner countries.

Greer explained that while the Supreme Court blocked former President Donald Trump's broad tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), the administration has alternative tools to maintain trade policy. These include Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, which allows temporary 10 per cent tariffs for 150 days, as well as investigations under Section 301 to address unfair trading practices. Existing national security tariffs on autos, steel, aluminum, and other products also remain in place.

"Our agreements hold. They remain, we will honour them and expect our trading partners to honour them," Greer said. He stressed that while the mechanisms for imposing tariffs may change, the goal of protecting American trade interests remains constant.

The remarks followed President Trump's announcement of a 10 per cent global tariff, effective immediately, after the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that his prior use of IEEPA to impose broad tariffs exceeded presidential authority. Trump called the ruling a "terrible decision" and said the new tariffs would address balance-of-payments deficits while preserving existing trade agreements.

Greer's statements reassure global partners that US trade policy remains consistent, even as the administration adjusts the legal and practical tools used to enforce it.

South Korea lawmakers proceed with US investment bill

SEOUL

South Korea's National Assembly has confirmed it will continue with the remaining procedures to process legislation on the country's $350 billion investment pledge to the United States, regardless of President Donald Trump's recent tariff ruling. Lawmakers from rival parties agreed on Saturday to proceed with hearings and plenary sessions as scheduled.

Rep. Kim Sang-hoon of the opposition People Power Party (PPP), who heads a special committee on the legislation, said, "The ruling does not seem to constitute a requirement that can cancel South Korea's investments to the United States. We plan to carry out the hearing as planned and check the government's position on the ruling."

Lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Party (DP) echoed the intent to push the legislation forward, emphasizing that their agreement with Washington remains intact. "No changes in schedule are expected on processing the special bill on South Korea's investment pledges to the U.S. We plan to calmly review the legislation," DP officials said.

South Korea's National Assembly will continue processing the $350 billion US investment bill as planned, despite Trump's tariffs and internal political disagreements among parties

The minor Jinbo Party, however, called for an immediate halt to all procedures on the bill, highlighting continuing political tensions.

Earlier this month, the National Assembly passed a resolution to form a parliamentary special committee to fast-track the legislation after a trade deal was reached between Seoul and Washington. The committee held its first meeting on February 12, but proceedings were briefly halted as rival parties clashed over unrelated judicial reform bills passed a day earlier.

A hearing on the investment legislation is scheduled for next Tuesday, and lawmakers plan to process the bill at a plenary session on March 5. The special committee will continue its work until March 9, ensuring that the US investment pledge remains on track despite external and domestic challenges.

B'desh observes Language Martyrs' Day; PM unveils commemorative stamps

DHAKA

Bangladesh paid deep respect on Tuesday to the martyrs of the 1952 Language Movement, who sacrificed their lives to protect the Bengali language. On February 21, 1952, students in Dhaka protested against the West Pakistani regime's decision to make Urdu the sole state language.

Police opened fire on demonstrators, but the movement continued and eventually forced authorities to recognize Bengali as a state language.

In 1999, UNESCO declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day, and Bangladesh observes it with solemn tribute each year. President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman led floral offerings at the Central Shaheed Minar early Tuesday. Thousands of people, barefoot and from all walks of life, joined in homage, singing the immortal song "Amar bhaier rokte rangano Ekushey February, ami ki bhulite pari?" ("My brother's blood-stained 21st February — can I ever forget?").

President Shahabuddin said the movement awakened a national resolve, giving the people of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, the right to their mother tongue and shaping national identity. He added that the spirit of Ekushey continues to inspire people worldwide to protect their languages and cultures.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman emphasized that the movement laid the foundation for national sovereignty, democratic aspirations, and cultural identity through a unifying language.

Sunzida Sultan of Karmojibi Nari noted that leaders fought to ensure Bangla was recognized despite attempts to impose Urdu. Tajwar Mahmid, a private employee, said people still visit Shaheed Minar to honor the martyrs' sacrifice, demonstrating the enduring respect for the 1952 struggle.

The annual tributes highlight Bangladesh's pride in its cultural heritage and the sacrifices that secured the recognition of Bengali, ensuring that future generations continue to value and protect their mother tongue.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	5		8		7		9	
1		2		3		7		4
8		7	9		1		3	
	2		6		3		5	
7		1		5			4	3
	6		7		4	8		
	1			6			7	2
4		8	1		2	3		
2	3			7			1	8

4	5	6	9	2	3	1	7	8
9	3	8	6	1	7	2	5	4
2	7	1	4	5	8	9	6	3
5	8	2	7	4	9	3	1	6
1	6	7	3	8	2	4	9	5
3	8	4	1	6	5	7	8	2
8	1	9	5	3	4	6	2	7
7	2	3	8	9	6	5	4	1
6	4	5	2	7	1	8	3	9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

US-IRAN TENSIONS

Iran draw up counter-offer as Trump weighs strikes

WASHINGTON

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Friday that a draft counterproposal could be ready in the coming days following nuclear talks with the United States. The discussions in Geneva this week, involving Trump's Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner, reached agreement on key "guiding principles," though a full deal is not yet imminent.

Araqchi told MS NOW that the draft would be reviewed by top Iranian officials and that further talks could take place within a week. He stressed that military action would complicate efforts to reach an agreement and expressed optimism that a diplomatic solution could be achieved "in a very short period of time."

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump warned Iran to negotiate a fair deal within 10 to 15 days or face "really bad things." He said he was "considering" limited military strikes and claimed that his threats had prevented mass executions in Iran. Trump cited a high death toll from Iran's crackdown on protests, though independent verification is limited.

Two US officials told Reuters that military planning had advanced, including options to target individuals or pursue leadership changes in Tehran if ordered.

During the Geneva talks, Araqchi said the United States did not demand zero uranium enrichment, and Iran did not offer to suspend it. Both sides discussed measures to ensure Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful in exchange for relief on sanctions.

The United Nations urged both countries to continue diplomacy, warning that heightened rhetoric and military activity risk escalating tensions in the region. The outcome of the next few days could determine whether the nuclear dispute moves toward resolution or further conflict.

South Korea fires forest service chief over DUI incident

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has dismissed Kim In-ho, Minister of the Korea Forest Service, after he was found to have committed an unlawful act, the presidential office confirmed on Saturday. No further details about the law violated were provided, but officials warned that high-ranking officials would face strict consequences for any legal violations.

In a statement, Lee's office said, "We have found that the minister of the Korea Forest Service caused trouble by committing a serious violation of existing laws, and decided to dismiss him from the post."

Police later confirmed that Kim had been booked on charges of driving under the influence. The ex-minister allegedly collided with a bus and a car while drunk at an intersection in Bundang district of Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, at around 10:50 p.m. on Monday. Authorities said Kim ignored traffic lights before hitting the vehicles, though no injuries were reported. His blood alcohol concentration was above the level requiring a license suspension.

Bundang Police Station stated, "We plan to investigate the exact details of the incident once we coordinate when to summon the suspect."

Kim, a former environment professor, was nominated as Minister in August after serving as vice chair of the Democratic Party's policy committee. His dismissal comes amid heightened scrutiny on government officials' conduct, reflecting President Lee's commitment to uphold the law and public accountability.

Ram Baboo, Manju win Indian Open Walk

Manju won the women's marathon in 3:33:24, ahead of Priyanka Goswami, with Payal earning bronze; she eyes Asian Games

CHANDIGARH

Uttar Pradesh's Ram Baboo and Punjab's Manju claimed gold in the men's and women's 42km full marathon walk at the 13th Indian Open Race Walk held at Sukhna Lake on Saturday. The full marathon walk, introduced this season by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), drew top national competitors.

Ram Baboo, 26, completed the challenging course in 3:09:17, narrowly beating Haryana's Sandeep Kumar, who finished in 3:11:18 to take silver.

This was Ram's first race of the season after his bronze in the 35km mixed team event at the Asian Games. "Preparation was good, and I'm happy with my performance," he said, adding his goal is to win a medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Japan this year.

In the women's full marathon, Manju triumphed in 3:33:24, nearly four minutes ahead of Olympian Priyanka Goswami (3:37:25), while Payal of Uttarakhand took bronze. Manju maintained a top-three position until the 32km mark before pulling ahead decisively.

"There was no one to challenge me, otherwise I could have improved my time," she said. Like Ram Baboo, she targets the Asian Games for the season.

In shorter distances, Nitin Gupta of Uttar Pradesh won the men's 10km walk in 41:44, and Reshma Patel, also from Uttar Pradesh, took the women's 10km in 46:19. Other medalists included Rishikesh P (TN), Bilin George Anto (Kerala), Mary Margaret K (Delhi), and Akshaya K (Kerala).

Ram Baboo and Manju had previously won bronze in the 35km mixed race walk team event at the 2022 Asian Games in China, reinforcing their status as India's leading race walkers.

ISSF WORLD CUP FINAL 2024

Karnataka Shooting League begins with franchise format

BENGALURU

The Shooting League of Karnataka has announced a new franchise-based competition aimed at giving shooters across the state more exposure and opportunities to compete. The league has attracted strong participation, with 136 shooters registering for the inaugural season.

The event is being organised under the guidance of the Shooting League of India and marks an important step in strengthening Karnataka's shooting ecosystem.

The league calendar began with the team owners' auction on February 12, followed by the players' auction on February 17. Qualification rounds are scheduled for February 28, while the semi-finals and finals will be held on March 1.

A new participation rule requires each team player to compete in at least one qualifying match. Events include 10m air pistol/ rifle, 25m pistol, 50m rifle, trap, and skeet.

Eight franchises are part of the competition, including Caliber Capitals, Trigger Action, Bangalore Brigade, Redrum, Mangalore Raptors, Top Guns, Sniper Squad and Hubballi Shooting Star. The teams will compete in a mixed-team format, with each side consisting of 11 players.

A special participation rule has been introduced to ensure wider involvement. According to the organisers, every player in a team must compete in at least one qualification match during the league.

The competition will feature several shooting disciplines such as 10m air pistol for men and women, 10m air rifle for men and women, 25m pistol, 50m rifle, trap and skeet.

Out of the 136 registered shooters, eight are international-level athletes from Karnataka. During the auction, eight franchises secured 88 players using a virtual budget of ₹1.75 crore for each team.

Among the top bids were Krutharth Devang Savyasachi, Anushka H. Thokur, Mamit Gowda, Nawabzada M.D. Omar Bin Jung and Shravan M. Shashidhar.

Organisers said the league aims to build a strong competitive platform and increase the popularity of shooting sports in the state while encouraging young talent to pursue the sport seriously in the coming years.

Brook backs Pakistan players' inclusion in The Hundred

PALLEKELE

England white-ball captain Harry Brook has voiced support for Pakistan players amid reports that Indian-owned franchises may ignore them in the upcoming The Hundred auction scheduled for March 12.

Speaking ahead of England's T20 World Cup Super 8 clash against Sri Lanka at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Brook said it would be a "shame" if Pakistan cricketers were excluded. "Pakistan have been a great cricket nation for many years. There are some amazing players in the auction, and it would be disappointing not to see them involved," he said. He added that Pakistan players not only bring quality but also attract strong fan support.

Reports suggest 63 male and four female cricketers from Pakistan have registered for the auction.

However, player agents were reportedly informed that participation could be limited to teams without Indian investment.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan urged the England and Wales Cricket Board to intervene, calling for inclusivity in the competition.

Afghanistan Cricket Board begins search for new coach

NEW DELHI

The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has started the process of appointing a new head coach and support staff, with a clear condition that they must be based in Afghanistan during the off-season.

The move comes after former head coach Jonathan Trott stepped down following Afghanistan's exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. ACB Chief Executive Naseeb Khan said the board wants the new coaching staff to closely monitor domestic cricket and work on strengthening the national team even when there are no international assignments.

"We have clearly mentioned in the contract that their duty station will be Afghanistan. They must observe domestic players and focus on improving weak areas of the national side," Khan said.

The board aims to finalise the appointment before Afghanistan's upcoming white-ball series against Sri Lanka national cricket team. The series, featuring three T20 Internationals followed by three One-Day Internationals, is scheduled in Dubai and Sharjah from March 13 to 25.

ELLYSE PERRY scripts history with 350th international match

ADELAIDE

Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry created history by becoming the first Australian woman to play 350 international matches. She achieved the milestone while taking the field against India in the deciding T20I at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

Perry marked her 20th year in international cricket with this achievement.

Only two women have played more matches globally — India captain Harmanpreet Kaur with 357 games and New Zealand's Suzie Bates with 355. Perry now stands as Australia's most-capped female cricketer.

Among other Australians, current captain Alyssa Healy has 295 appearances, while former vice-captain Alex Blackwell played 252 matches. Healy has announced she will retire after next month's day-night Test against India starting March 6.

Speaking before the match, Perry said she has no fixed timeline for retirement.

"As long as I'm contributing and finding fulfillment, I'd love to continue," she said.

In the ongoing series, India took the first match at the SCG under the DLS method. Australia bounced back strongly in Canberra, powered by Georgia Voll's attacking 88, leveling the series and setting up the final in Adelaide.

Perry's milestone highlights her remarkable consistency and dedication, making her one of the most celebrated figures in women's cricket worldwide.

B'luru FC ready for NorthEast United clash

BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC will return to Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday(today) at 5 PM, looking to maintain their perfect start in the Indian Super League (ISL) season against NorthEast United FC.

The Blues come into the match on the back of a solid 2-0 win over SC Delhi, with goals from Sivasakthi Narayanan and Sunil Chhetri helping them keep a clean sheet and start the season on a high.

NorthEast United, meanwhile, are determined to bounce back after a defeat to East Bengal. The Highlanders have struggled away from home, having not beaten Bengaluru FC since 2018. In a condensed 13-game season, every point is crucial, and teams must perform at their best in every match.

BENGALURU HOST NORTHEAST IN ISL CLASH

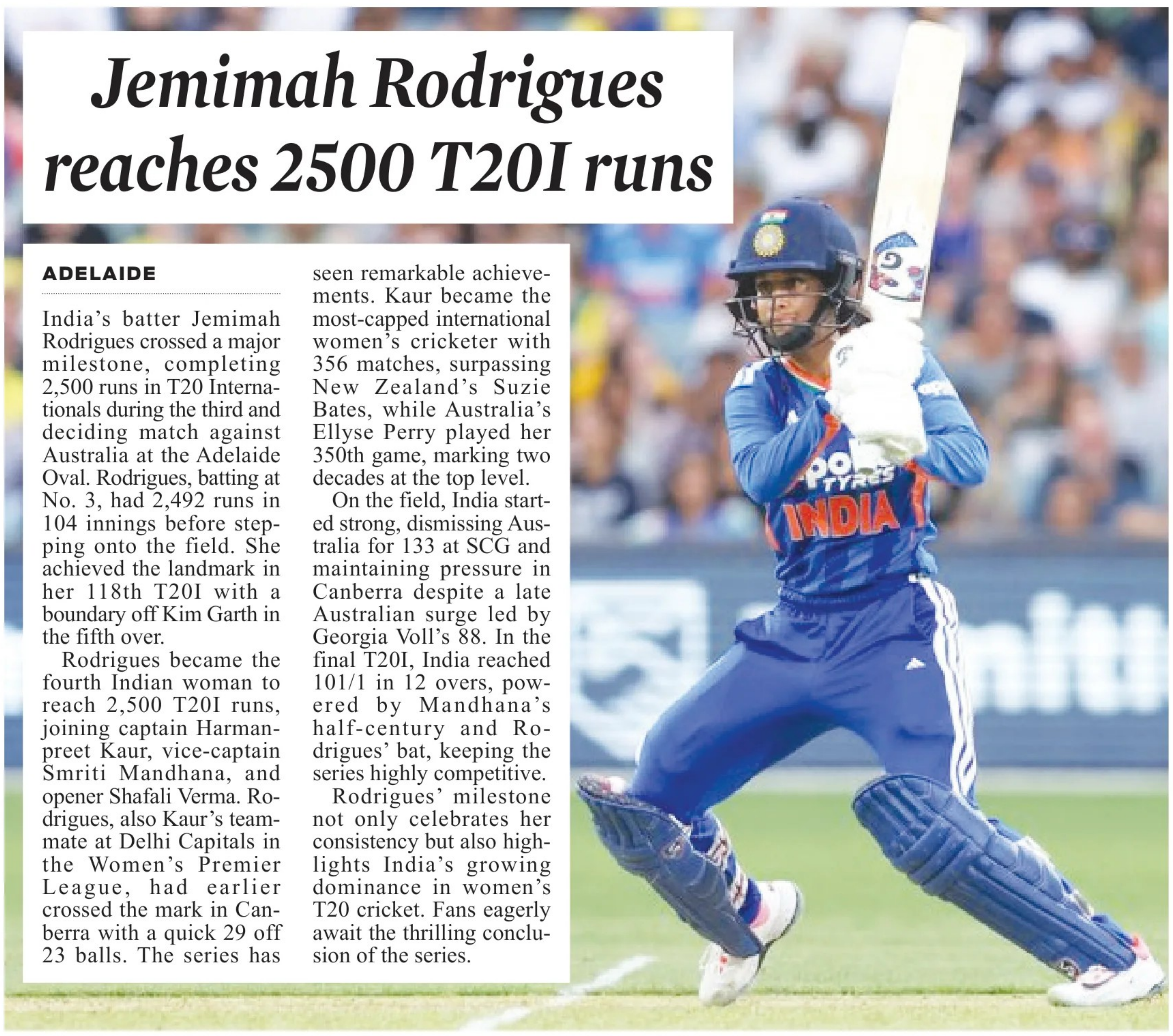
Bengaluru FC return to Sree Kanteerava Stadium aiming to extend their winning start in the ISL against NorthEast United. After a 2-0 victory over SC Delhi, the Blues look confident. NorthEast seek redemption, but Bengaluru's solid defense and home advantage could prove decisive.

Bengaluru FC head coach Singh emphasized teamwork and tactical focus, saying, "Every team wants to keep the ball, but how we attack and defend together is what matters.

We need to put our best foot forward, and I'm sure our chances will come." The defensive pairing of Rahul Bheke and Chinglensana Singh will be key to neutralizing NorthEast's attack.

Defender Chinglensana Singh added, "We'll go game by game and approach every match with a winning mentality. Hopefully, it'll be good."

With a full-strength squad and no injury concerns, Bengaluru FC appear well-prepared to defend their home turf in what promises to be an intense encounter.



Jemimah Rodrigues reaches 2500 T20I runs

ADELAIDE

India's batter Jemimah Rodrigues crossed a major milestone, completing 2,500 runs in T20 Internationals during the third and deciding match against Australia at the Adelaide Oval. Rodrigues, batting at No. 3, had 2,492 runs in 104 innings before stepping onto the field. She achieved the landmark in her 118th T20I with a boundary off Kim Garth in the fifth over.

Rodrigues became the fourth Indian woman to reach 2,500 T20I runs, joining captain Harmanpreet Kaur, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, and opener Shafali Verma. Rodrigues, also Kaur's teammate at Delhi Capitals in the Women's Premier League, had earlier crossed the mark in Canberra with a quick 29 off 23 balls. The series has seen remarkable achievements. Kaur became the most-capped international women's cricketer with 356 matches, surpassing New Zealand's Suzie Bates, while Australia's Ellyse Perry played her 350th game, marking two decades at the top level.

On the field, India started strong, dismissing Australia for 133 at SCG and maintaining pressure in Canberra despite a late Australian surge led by Georgia Voll's 88. In the final T20I, India reached 101/1 in 12 overs, powered by Mandhana's half-century and Rodrigues' bat, keeping the series highly competitive.

Rodrigues' milestone not only celebrates her consistency but also highlights India's growing dominance in women's T20 cricket. Fans eagerly await the thrilling conclusion of the series.

QUICK READ

Suzlon shares halve from recent peak market

Mumbai

Shares of Suzlon Energy have slipped nearly 50 per cent from their recent peak of Rs 86, closing at Rs 44.38. The stock has been under steady pressure since September, reflecting cautious investor mood. In the past six months, it has fallen over 23 per cent, while year-to-date losses stand above 15 per cent. Analysts say project delays, land issues, and grid connectivity hurdles are slowing execution. Despite posting quarterly revenue of Rs 4,228 crore and 15 per cent profit growth, sentiment remains weak among retail investors. The downturn has erased significant investor wealth recently.

Livspace lays off 1,000 staff, co-founder exits

Bengaluru

Home interiors platform 'Livspace' has reportedly laid off around 1,000 employees, nearly 12% of its workforce, as part of an internal restructuring. The move comes as the company shifts towards becoming an AI-driven organisation. Amid these developments, co-founder Saurabh Jain announced his exit after nearly 11 years. In a LinkedIn post, he said he is taking a short break and working on something new. Livspace thanked Jain for his contribution in building the company from an early-stage startup into a market leader. The company clarified that the restructuring is a strategic step, not just cost-cutting.

PhonePe introduces AI voice search feature

New Delhi

PhonePe has launched a new AI-powered natural language search feature built using Microsoft Foundry, making digital payments easier and more interactive. The tool allows users to send money, recharge services, or check information using simple voice or text commands. Instead of searching through menus, users can type or say requests like "Pay Hemanth 20 rupees" or "Recharge FASTag," and the app completes the task automatically. PhonePe said the feature understands user intent while keeping data secure within its system. The rollout will happen in phases across India, aiming to make payments smarter and more user-friendly.

Intel unveils 'Frugal AI' at India AI Impact Summit

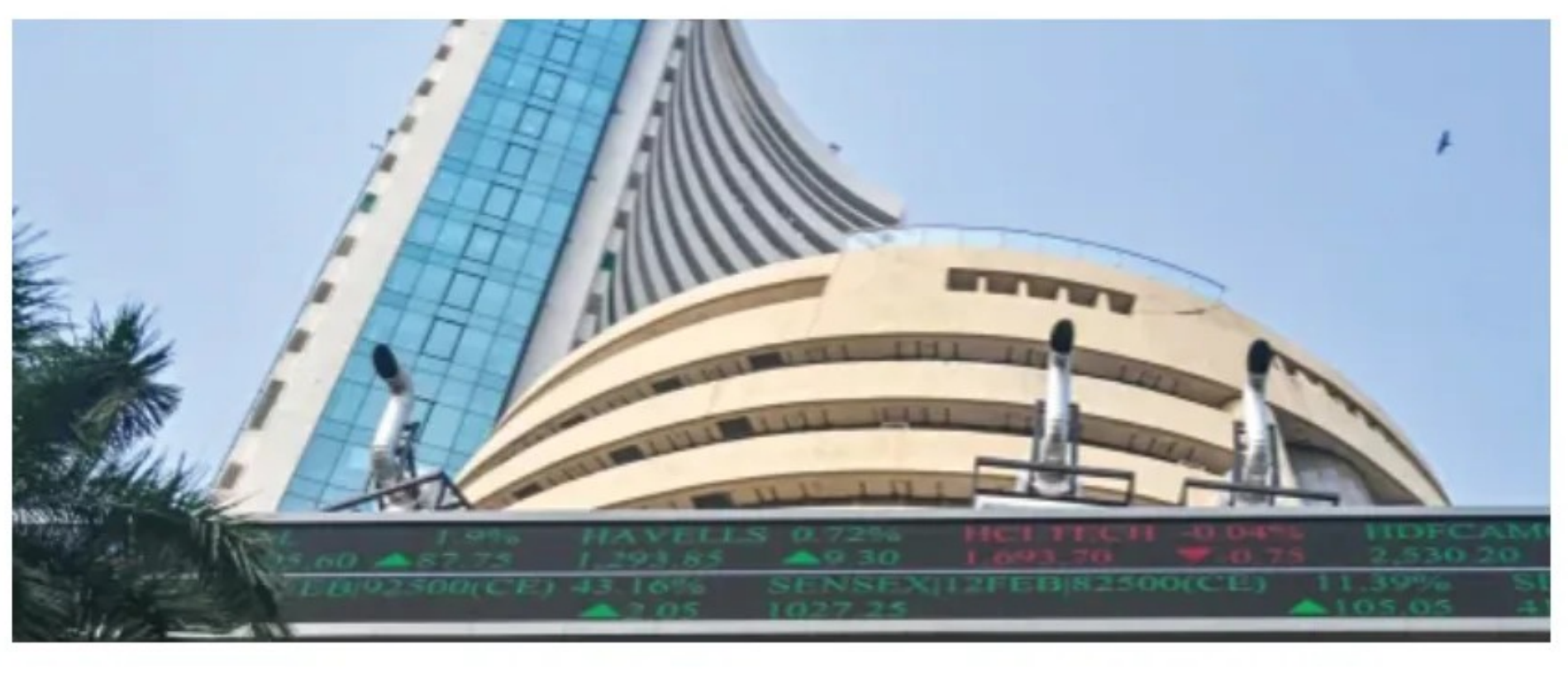
New Delhi

At the India AI Impact Summit 2026, Intel showcased its "Frugal AI" strategy aimed at making artificial intelligence affordable and practical across India. The company highlighted distributed computing using PCs and edge devices instead of relying only on cloud systems. Intel also presented its AI-powered PCs capable of handling on-device AI tasks with improved performance and energy efficiency. These systems support real-time processing while protecting user privacy. The company stressed the need to expand PC access, noting India's low computer penetration despite high smartphone usage. Intel said affordable AI-ready PCs can boost education, innovation, and digital fluency nationwide.

Indian markets post mild weekly gains despite IT losses

Sectoral performance was mixed during the week, as all major indices closed in the red, led by Nifty Media falling 2.46%, capital markets 2.44%, and IT 2.07%, respectively.

MUMBAI



Indian stock markets ended the week with small gains even as losses in information technology shares pulled some indices lower. The benchmark Nifty rose slightly over the week, while the Sensex also closed higher on Friday. Investors remained cautious but continued buying in select sectors helped the market stay positive.

Data showed Nifty gained about 0.39 percent during the week and finished the last session at 25,571. The Sensex ended around 82,814, rising roughly 316 points. However, sector performance remained mixed and several indices closed lower. Media stocks saw the sharpest fall, followed by capital market shares and IT companies.

Analysts said global mood improved after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down many tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump. The decision supported world markets and lifted expectations of a stronger opening for Indian equities next week.

At home, fresh economic data also boosted sentiment. India's manufacturing and services activity rose to 59.3 in February, the best level in three months. Experts say continued institutional support and stable global cues will decide whether the rebound becomes a lasting uptrend.

Meanwhile, tensions between the United States and Iran pushed oil prices higher and kept traders alert. Brent crude climbed near 71.8 dollars a barrel, adding pressure on markets.

Analysts expect consolidation next week as investors track global risks, trade talks, and upcoming Indian GDP numbers closely for direction ahead in the market during the coming sessions and near term trends across sectors and broader indices as well going forward for investors across the country watching developments very closely now and ahead too this week again in trading activity overall.

Tariff relief brings fresh uncertainty for Europe

MILAN

Businesses across Europe are reacting cautiously after a major tariff decision in the United States that may reshape global trade.

The ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a large part of tariff measures introduced by Donald Trump, but companies say the decision may create new uncertainty instead of stability.

The court said the tariffs, imposed using emergency powers, went beyond the authority granted under the law. Many firms initially welcomed the judgment after years of legal disputes and trade tensions. However, industry groups across Europe now fear that the situation could become more unpredictable in the coming months.

Trade associations say companies may delay orders until there is clarity on future rules. The United States remains a major export destination for several European sectors, especially wine, chemicals and consumer products.

Italian wine exporters are particularly concerned because the U.S. is their largest market. Industry representatives warned that sudden policy shifts could affect shipments and business planning.

Chemical manufacturers are also watching developments closely. The German chemical industry association noted that the ruling does not mean the tariff conflict has ended. Companies linked to major producers such as BASF and Bayer believe new duties could be introduced under different laws.

Shortly after the ruling, Trump announced a temporary global tariff of 10 percent for a limited period. Analysts say this shows the dispute may continue despite the court's decision.

Shipping and logistics experts added that supply chains have already been affected by years of trade tensions. Many firms are now restructuring operations to reduce risks.

European businesses say stability in global trade policies is essential, and they hope negotiations between countries will prevent further disruptions.

US Court ruling may cut India export tariffs

NEW DELHI

A decision by the United States Supreme Court could significantly reduce tariffs on a large share of Indian exports to the American market, according to analysts tracking global trade developments.

Experts say nearly 55 percent of India's exports to the United States may now fall under the Most Favoured Nation tariff system. Under this system, average tariff rates could drop to around 2.8 to 3.3 percent depending on the sector. Earlier, duties on several goods were as high as 18 percent and were later reduced to about 10 percent.

The development followed a ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States which struck down the use of emergency powers by former US President Donald Trump to impose sweeping reciprocal tariffs.

In a 6–3 judgment, the court said the administration had exceeded its authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Chief Justice John Roberts stated that the law did not clearly allow a president to impose unlimited tariffs without approval from Congress.

Following the verdict, analysts suggested that India should review its trade agreement strategy with the United States to ensure better advantages in future negotiations.

Despite the ruling, the US government indicated that tariffs may still continue under other legal provisions. Officials said a temporary 10 percent tariff will apply to Indian goods as part of a broader global tariff plan.

President Trump strongly defended his trade policy after the judgment and warned that further steps could be taken, including stricter tariffs or other economic actions if required.

Trade experts say the coming weeks will be important for global markets and for India-US economic relations.

Wall Street stays calm after tariff ruling

NEW YORK

Major stock markets in the United States ended slightly higher after the Supreme Court of the United States struck down sweeping tariffs imposed by Donald Trump, easing concerns among investors.

The S&P 500 rose 0.7 percent during trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained about 230 points, while the Nasdaq Composite climbed 0.9 percent.

Market experts said investors had partly expected such a decision from the court, which helped keep reactions steady. Traders remained cautious while trying to understand the long-term impact of the ruling on global trade and the economy.

Despite the decision, Trump announced that tariffs will continue in another form. He said he would sign an executive order to impose a temporary 10 percent global tariff under federal law, which could remain in place for about 150 days. The administration is also exploring other ways to introduce trade duties after further investigations.

Bond markets showed limited movement, with government yields remaining mostly stable. Analysts said investors are still weighing whether the ruling could influence inflation, government revenue and future economic growth.

Some company shares reacted sharply during the day. Fashion brand Ralph Lauren saw its stock fluctuate before ending with gains. Meanwhile, technology firm Akamai Technologies dropped sharply after giving a weaker profit outlook despite strong recent earnings.

Overall, investors continued focusing on economic signals such as inflation, growth trends and interest rate decisions by the Federal Reserve, which are expected to guide market direction in the coming months.

SHIFT IN FOREIGN CORPORATE FOOTPRINT

125 foreign firms shut ops in Pakistan

NEW DELHI

Pakistan has witnessed a significant exit of foreign businesses, with 125 overseas companies shutting down their operations in the country by January 2026, according to data released by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

The regulator stated that these companies had officially completed the legal process required to close their branch or liaison offices. Many of them had been operating in major cities such as Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar.

The list shows that firms from several countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Turkiye, Australia, Sweden, Bahrain, Canada, France and the Netherlands, have withdrawn from the Pakistani market.

Some globally recognised corporations are among those that ended their presence in the country. Energy company ExxonMobil closed the operations of its subsidiary, while electronics giant Panasonic Corporation and airline operator Lufthansa also shut their offices.

Several technology and telecom-related firms, including Dell, Nortel Networks (Asia) Ltd and Telcordia Technologies, were also part of the list. Companies linked to oil and gas, engineering, construction, banking, insurance, consulting and manufacturing sectors have withdrawn as well.

Other major firms such as Halliburton Limited, Doosan Heavy Industries and Construction Co., Mashreq Bank and T.C. Ziraat Bankasi A.S. have also completed closure formalities. A few international organisations and trade groups were included in the list too.

Officials clarified that the companies followed the required procedures before exiting the country. However, the regulator did not specify the reasons behind the shutdowns.

Observers say the development reflects a noticeable change in the foreign corporate presence in Pakistan's economy in recent years.

Gold surges as safe haven demand grows

MUMBAI

Gold prices surged 0.23% during the week, amid renewed buying interest due to global macro-economic factors, safe haven demand and lack of directional cues from US Federal Reserve.

Gold prices rose by 0.23 percent this week as investors turned to the yellow metal amid global economic uncertainties and steady safe-haven demand. The lack of clear signals from the US Federal Reserve also supported buying interest.

MCX gold February futures increased by 0.07 percent, while silver March futures saw a sharp jump of 4.41 percent. Gold futures were trading at Rs 1,56,993, and silver futures stood at Rs 2,52,042 per kilogram.

According to data from the India Bullion and Jewellers Association, the price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was Rs 1,54,080 on Friday, slightly lower than Rs 1,54,483 recorded on Monday.

Market experts said the removal of additional margins in domestic futures markets boosted speculative trading and increased daily activity. MCX and NSE recently withdrew the extra 3 percent margin on gold futures and 7 percent on silver futures, which encouraged more participation.

Analysts noted that metals are currently trading in a steady range after recent sharp movements. Gold has strong resistance near Rs 1,55,000, while the Rs 1,52,000 to Rs 1,53,000 range has become a short-term support zone.

Silver continues to gain strength due to rising demand from green energy, electric vehicles, AI, and electronics sectors. Experts believe ongoing geopolitical tensions and central bank gold purchases may keep prices firm in the coming days.

Toolkit aims to expand voice technology access

NEW DELHI

India has taken another step toward building inclusive digital technology with the launch of a new policy report and developers' toolkit focused on voice technologies. The initiative aims to help create open, responsible, and accessible speech-based digital systems across the country.

The toolkit and report were launched during the India AI Summit Expo 2026. According to Amitabh Nag, CEO of the Digital India BHASHINI Division, India is rapidly moving toward a voice-first digital ecosystem, making it important to build strong policies and practical tools.

He explained that the policy report provides guidance for governments, institutions, and technology developers to work together. At the same time, the toolkit gives practical steps for building speech technology systems, from collecting language data to designing artificial intelligence models and deploying them responsibly.

The project was developed jointly by ARTPARK at IISc, Digital Futures Lab and Trilegal. It was supported by the Bhashini initiative and the FAIR Forward programme implemented by GIZ.

Experts say voice technology can play a key role in improving digital access in a linguistically diverse country like India. When services work in local languages and dialects, more citizens can easily use online platforms for education, healthcare, government services, and economic activities.

The report also points out challenges in India's speech technology ecosystem. These include uneven language data, lack of strong quality checks, limited evaluation systems, and fragmented governance structures.

Officials believe that addressing these gaps will help build trustworthy and inclusive voice-based digital services for millions of people across India.

Quality Care India to invest Rs 600 cr in Nagpur Hospital

NAGPUR

Healthcare major Quality Care India Limited has announced plans to invest around Rs 600 crore to set up a 350-plus bed multi-speciality hospital in Nagpur, strengthening healthcare infrastructure in Maharashtra and Central India.

The company has received the Letter of Acceptance (LoA) for the project, marking a key milestone. The LoA was exchanged between Maha-Metro and Quality Care India during the Advantage Vidarbha event in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

The proposed Care hospital will be developed on Maha-Metro land near Kasturchand Park Metro Station, a prime urban and transit location in the city. The project will be implemented as a public-private partnership, aligning healthcare services with urban development.

Group Managing Director Varun Khanna said such collaborations are crucial for building accessible and sustainable healthcare systems, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities like Nagpur. He noted that the project would help meet the long-term healthcare needs of the Vidarbha region.

The hospital will be operational in phases and is expected to generate more than 1,500 direct and indirect jobs. It will house specialised centres in cardiac sciences, oncology, gastroenterology, trauma care, and neurosciences, bringing advanced medical services closer to patients in Central India.

The investment is seen as a significant step toward positioning Nagpur as a growing regional healthcare hub.

Yash Lives Calm Life In Luxury Bengaluru Duplex

'Toxic' star Yash, widely known as the Rocking Star after the huge success of KGF, lives a simple and disciplined life despite his grand on-screen image. The actor owns a luxury duplex in North Bengaluru's Prestige Golfshire, a premium residential area near Nandi Hills.

The house is valued between Rs 6 crore and Rs 7 crore. Known for its golf-facing homes and limited residences, Prestige Golfshire is considered one of the most exclusive addresses in the city. Yash lives there with his wife, Radhika Pandit, and their children, Ayra and Yatharv.

The duplex reflects comfort and warmth rather than showy luxury. The interiors focus on simple design, soft colours and natural wooden finishes. Large windows allow plenty of sunlight, making the home bright and peaceful. The house also includes a home gym and a private workspace. The layout is child-friendly and supports family life. Radhika Pandit played a key role in designing the interiors, ensuring the home feels welcoming and safe.

Reports estimate Yash's net worth between Rs 53 crore and Rs 60 crore. He owns luxury cars such as Range Rover, BMW and Mercedes SUVs. He has also invested in land across Karnataka and supports social causes through the Yasho Marga Foundation.

On the work front, Yash will next appear in Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups, set for release on March 19, 2026.

JANA NAYAGAN
MAY RELEASE IN JUNE AFTER CBFC DELAY

The highly anticipated final film of Vijay, Jana Nayagan, has hit a major roadblock after the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) reportedly declined to grant a censor certificate. The unexpected delay has disappointed fans and left the project in limbo. However, fresh industry buzz suggests the makers are eyeing a June 2026 theatrical release, with Thursday, June 18, 2026, under consideration. The date is viewed as strategically significant, aligning with Vijay's 52nd birthday and the Muharram long weekend, potentially strengthening box office prospects.

Social media has been abuzz, with fans excited about a possible birthday release, though some remain cautious given earlier postponements. Meanwhile, global distributor York Cinemas clarified on X that the film will not release before April 30, 2026, and advised those seeking refunds for advance bookings to contact theatres. Loyal members were promised priority booking once the date is finalized. Directed by H. Vinoth, Jana Nayagan remains one of Tamil cinema's most awaited releases.

Sophie Turner Kit Harington Share Awkward Kiss

Actors Sophie Turner and Kit Harington are making headlines after a behind-the-scenes clip from their upcoming horror film The Dreadful went viral. The two stars, who famously played siblings Sansa Stark and Jon Snow in Game of Thrones, shared a hilariously awkward reaction after filming a kissing scene.

In a video released by Entertainment Tonight, the pair are seen passionately kissing in a lush outdoor setting. After the director calls Cut. Beautiful, Harington quickly turns away and pretends to gag. Turner puffs her cheeks and acts as if she is about to retch. The crew bursts into laughter at their exaggerated reactions.

Director Natasha Kermani praised the duo, saying their chemistry and friendship made their reunion special.

ULAGANAYAGAN
SUPERSTAR
KHxRK

Reunion Promo Sparks Massive Excitement

Fans of Tamil cinema were treated to a joyful surprise as the makers of director Nelson Dilipkumar's upcoming film released a fun-filled promo featuring superstars Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan. The video quickly won hearts and created huge excitement online.

The film, tentatively titled KHX-RK, will mark the reunion of Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan after nearly 47 years. Music for the film is composed by Anirudh Ravichander. It is being produced by Red Giant Movies, with cinematography by Rajeev Menon.

The promo begins in a hotel corridor where Nelson wonders which superstar's room he should enter first. Anirudh appears, humming a tune, and playfully asks him to pick between two musical ragas using a two-finger technique. Nelson misunderstands it as choosing heroines, leading to a funny exchange.

Nelson first enters Kamal Haasan's room. Though Kamal is not clearly shown, he is seen choosing a blazer. When Nelson says Rajinikanth liked the same one, Kamal changes his choice. In Rajinikanth's room, a similar moment happens when he switches his shoes after hearing Kamal preferred them.

Finally, both legends step out in stylish retro looks and get into the same car, with Nelson and Anirudh seated behind them. Anirudh mentions a new theme track, but the two stars jokingly ask the big question: Who is the hero? As Nelson looks confused, the car speeds away. The production house called the reunion a historic celebration for generations.

Nani Unveils Intense Saraswathi Film Trailer

Telugu actor Nani on Saturday released the gripping trailer of Saraswathi, marking the directorial debut of actress Varalaxmi Sarathkumar. Sharing the trailer on social media, Nani expressed pride in supporting his friend's new journey as a filmmaker and wished the team success.

The trailer opens at a police station, where Varalaxmi's character waits in distress. Her daughter, Saraswathi, has gone missing. She says she personally dropped her child at school, but when she returned to pick her up, the school claimed the girl was not there.

Actors Priyamani and Kishore are also shown facing a similar fear as they search desperately for their child. The watchman says all students have left, deepening the mystery. Police begin investigating, but with no clear proof, the parents are left helpless.

Varalaxmi's character then approaches advocate Ramanunajam, played by Prakash Raj. At first, he refuses to take up the case due to lack of evidence, but later agrees to represent her in court. The trailer suggests a serious crime and hints at a long legal struggle where justice seems uncertain.

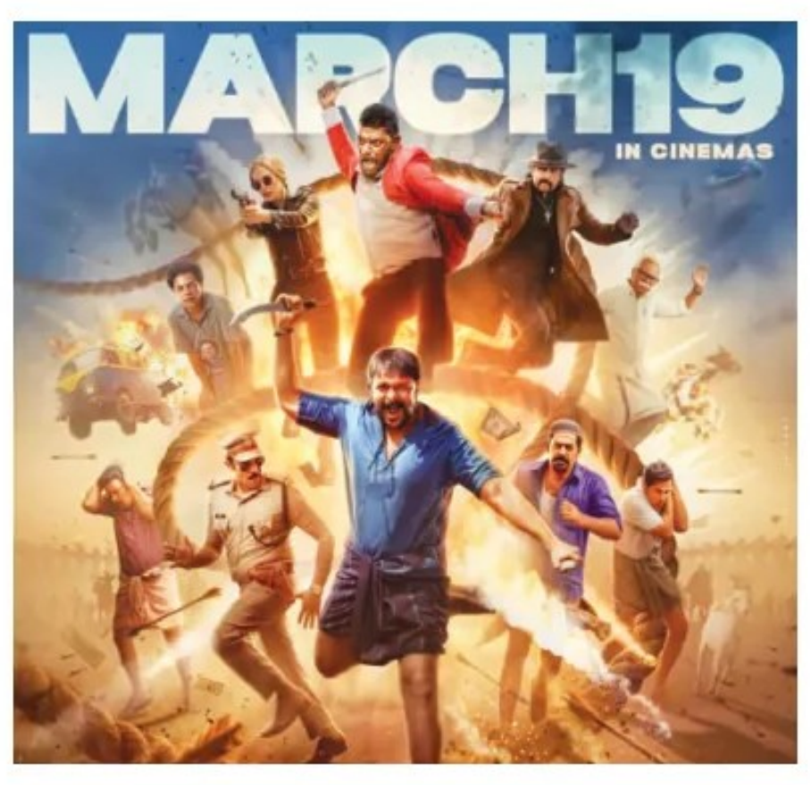
In the final moments, Varalaxmi is seen learning to use a gun. She delivers a powerful line, saying not every woman will remain gentle, and if needed, she will turn fierce like Kali.

Produced by Varalaxmi and her sister Pooja under the banner Dosa Diaries, the film features music by Thaman S.

Aadu 3 Set For March 19 Release

The makers of Aadu 3, starring Jayasurya, have officially confirmed that the film will release in theatres on March 19, 2026. A new poster unveiled on February 20 announced the date and described the movie as the final chapter in the popular comedy franchise directed by Midhun Manuel Thomas.

The film will clash at the box office with Toxic, directed by Geetu Mohandas and starring Yash. The big release date has already sparked excitement among fans of both films.



Actor-producer Vijay Babu shared the poster on social media with the caption, The idiots are coming; One last ride… Aadu-3, In Theatres Worldwide from 19th March 2026! Fans quickly flooded the comments section with messages of excitement. Many called it an epic return and urged the team to release the teaser and trailer soon. Some even predicted that the film could become Jayasurya's first Rs 100 crore grosser.

Earlier posters had created confusion about whether the story would shift to a new direction.

Vidya Balan Opens Alliance Literary Festival 2026

HER STORY
ALLIANCE UNIVERSITY
NAAC GRADE A+
ALLIANCE ONE

The fifth edition of the Alliance Literary Festival (ALF) 2026 began on a grand note at the Central Campus of Alliance University in Anekal. The festival was inaugurated by acclaimed actress Vidya Balan. This year's theme, HerStory: Celebrating Naari Shakti, highlights women's strength and achievements.

The literary festival is being held along with Alliance ONE 2026, the university's main techno-cultural and sports event. With a focus on equity, excellence and empowerment, this year's theme is Solving for Bengaluru. Students are encouraged to find practical solutions to real problems faced by the city.

The three-day event has drawn more than 5,000 participants. Over 200 speakers and judges from fields such as literature, arts, media, sports, business and public policy are taking part. A special feature this year is the inclusion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in every competition. Many challenges are based on issues affecting local communities in Bengaluru.

The opening ceremony began with a lively all-women Chendamelam procession, celebrating womanhood and unity. Pro Chancellor Abhay G. Chebbi spoke about his vision of making the university a centre for art, culture and learning. A dance-drama by a transgender group led by activist Kalki Subramanian received strong applause for promoting inclusion. Vidya Balan later spoke with Shreya Sanjeev about her career journey and experiences in the film industry.

The evening ended with a Bharatanatyam performance by dancer Shobana and shows by international artists. The festival continues on February 20 and 21.

"Shobana"
- Poetry in Bharatanatyam

BMW Begins Streaming On Zee5 From Feb 20

Ravi Teja's comedy entertainer Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyapthi, popularly known as BMW, has officially made its digital debut. The film is now streaming on ZEE5 after completing a successful theatrical run earlier this year.

Starring Ravi Teja and directed by Kishore Tirumala, the movie was released in cinemas in January 2026 during the Makar Sankranti festival. It performed reasonably well at the box office and attracted family audiences with its comedy-driven story.

The post-theatrical streaming rights were acquired by ZEE5. Though the film was initially expected to premiere on February 13, 2026, the release was delayed for undisclosed reasons. According to recent reports, it began streaming on February 20, 2026. The film is available in five languages — Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi.

The story follows Ram Sathyanarayana, a liquor businessman played by Ravi Teja, whose life turns chaotic as he juggles two women. Dimple Hayathi plays his wife Balamani, while Ashika Ranganath portrays Manasa. The film uses a comedy-of-errors format filled with misunderstandings and humorous twists.

Actors Vennela Kishore, Sunil, Muralidhar and Satya add to the laughter with their comic timing. Reviews described the film as an average one-time watch, praising its humour but noting a thin storyline and uneven second half.

With its light-hearted tone and festive appeal, BMW is expected to reach a wider audience through its OTT release.

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